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The Lobby: Volume One

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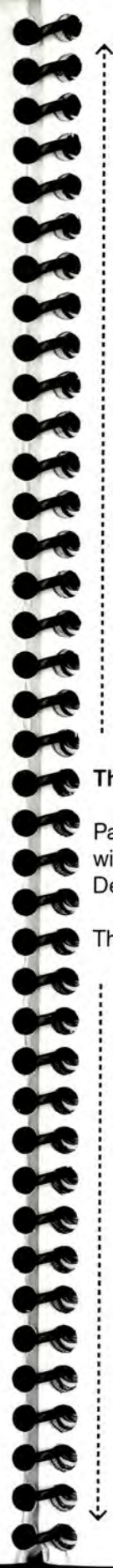
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An abstract geometric design featuring a large, thick black circle in the lower-left quadrant. Inside this circle are numerous smaller circles of varying sizes, some with solid outlines and others with dashed outlines. Thin, straight lines radiate from the centers of these circles across the entire page. In the upper-right and lower-right areas, there are several large, dashed circles. The overall composition is minimalist and mathematical.

The lobby.

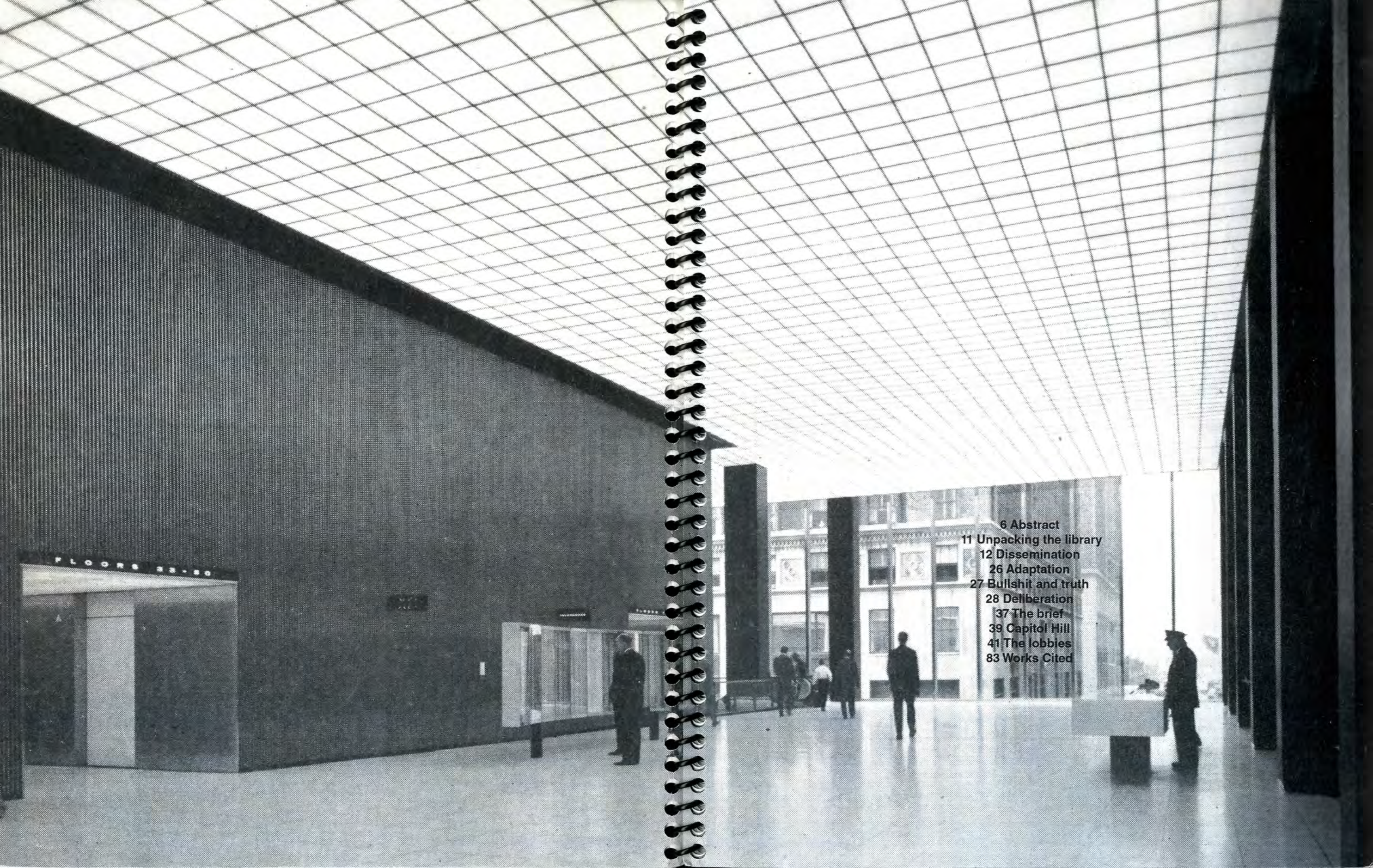
volume one



The lobby.

Paul Miller
with Jonathan Lott and Mark Robbins
December 2008

Thesis submitted toward completion of a Bachelor of Architecture degree.



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This project is about the proliferation of knowledge* in physical space.

With modes of knowledge dissemination shifting dramatically away from the traditional infrastructure of books and stacks, the library faces a future of irrelevance. Symbolic, collective space left with a waning program that defined its function for hundreds of years yearns for redefinition in the age of new media.

Unlike the academic and objective tendencies of the book, subjective filters of knowledge, such as blogs, editorials, and punditry have emerged as a means of quickly satisfying society's ravenous desire for information. In a sense, these highly accessible sources have produced a better-informed society, but the distortion of knowledge that occurs through their subjectivity should be made visible to all.

By juxtaposing multiple filters of knowledge within symbolic, collective space, their subjectivity is revealed through proximity**, presenting an opportunity for the House of Knowledge to redefine itself as a space for deliberation rather than dissemination.

* Plato defines knowledge as Justified True Belief. Thus, a belief which is proven to be true must still be explained as to why it is true. Justification is an inherently subjective process, suggesting that knowledge relies on the development of a careful argument in order to be accepted. It is this deliberation that proliferates knowledge.
Plato. *Theaetetus*, trans. Robin H. Waterfield (New York: Penguin Classics, 1987), 18.

** Subjectivity is often hard to decipher, especially for someone who does not have previous knowledge of a given subject. Since a subjective viewpoint will be influenced by the opinion of the person presenting it, when multiple subjective viewpoints are posed together, it is inevitable that conflicting opinions will be exposed. This reveals each source's subjective nature, encouraging debate over which is actually true.



An aerial photograph of a city, likely Los Angeles, showing a large stadium (Dolby Theatre) and surrounding urban areas. The image is overlaid with a spiral-bound notebook cover. The text "NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION" is written in large, bold, white capital letters across the center of the image, tilted slightly to the right. The notebook's spiral binding is visible in the center, running vertically. In the bottom left corner, there is a small white box containing the text "MINI-MAX" and the number "77".

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Liberated from its former obligations, architecture's last function will be the creation of the symbolic spaces that accomodate the persistent desire for collectivity.

Office for Metropolitan Architecture, 1987

I am unpacking my library. Yes I am.¹

Architecture has been liberated.

After thousands of years of responsibility for the hordes of knowledge that man could no longer store in his own mind, new technology has presented an opportunity to give up that exhausting obligation.² With the ubiquity of the internet and other digital sources, the traditional means of storing and disseminating knowledge through text has become obsolete. While this could be viewed as detrimental to the discipline of architecture, instead this should be a moment of exploration. New programmatic and formal opportunities await discovery through new readings of the relationship between physical space and knowledge.

We ready ourselves to transcend the era of libraries and museums.

¹ Walter Benjamin takes great care in describing the collector as he unpacks his library for the first time in years. As his enormous collection of books sprawls across the floor he reflects on the tendency of man to associate his collection with his own experiences, the totality of the objects representing something more than the knowledge stored within. The library represents much more than just a collection of information.

Walter Benjamin, "Unpacking my Library," in *Illuminations* (New York: Schocken, 1969), 60.

² This happened once before when the "printing press killed the edifice." Before the book, the best way for man to disseminate knowledge was to build a monument that would represent it. With the invention of the printing press, architecture was no longer the most efficient way of representing an idea, so man found new use for it - dissemination by storage.

Victor Hugo, "This will kill that," in *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, trans. Walter J. Cobb (New York: Signet Classics, 2001), 174.

Project: Dissemination

...To collect all the knowledge that now lies scattered over the face of the earth, to make known its general structure to the men among we live, and to transmit it to those who will come after us, to make men not only wiser but also more virtuous and more happy.
Denis Diderot, 1750

These collections are conceived as parts of one universal body of documentation, as an encyclopedic survey of human knowledge, as an enormous intellectual warehouse of books, documents, catalogues and scientific objects...these collections will tend progressively to constitute a permanent and complete representation of the entire world.
Paul Otlet, 1914

It is necessary that...works of human collaboration become known, that their authors become known to each other and have an opportunity to work together, to share a common location as a condenser of ideas, a repository and center of action.
Le Corbusier, 1929

Thus we see that both in East and West the theme of the tower reaching high unto heaven has been a manifestation of the need of bringing order and unity into the welter of chaotic and unrelated fields of knowledge. Each age has felt the necessity for simplification and breadth of common understanding.
Francis Henry Taylor, 1945

The project of knowledge is a complex, amorphous, and fluctuating one, defined by a body of information that changes its shape with each generation.³ With each new cycle comes an effort by man to understand the entire world through a single lens.

An indeterminable number of attempts have been projected from every possible discipline to create a means of allowing all of humanity to reach a level of common understanding.

The following group of projects represent a brief glance through history at the variety of types that have been produced in an attempt to organize and disseminate massive amounts of knowledge.

³ Michel Foucault, "Space, Knowledge, and Power," in *Power: Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984*, ed. James D. Faubion (London: Penguin Books, 2002), 364.

Library of Alexandria

Alexandria, Egypt 280 BCE

Formed by during the reign of Ptolemy I, was once the largest library in the world. It is also often considered the first library, though many scholars believe its collections were primarily private. An ode to the original project was rebuilt in Alexandria by Snohetta in 2003.



Tower of Babel

Babylon

The Book of Genesis portrays this tower as the crowning achievement of a civilization that had finally united all of humanity under a single language. The theme of a great tower that would attempt to bring order to the chaos of unorganized society would repeat itself indefinitely throughout the history of man.

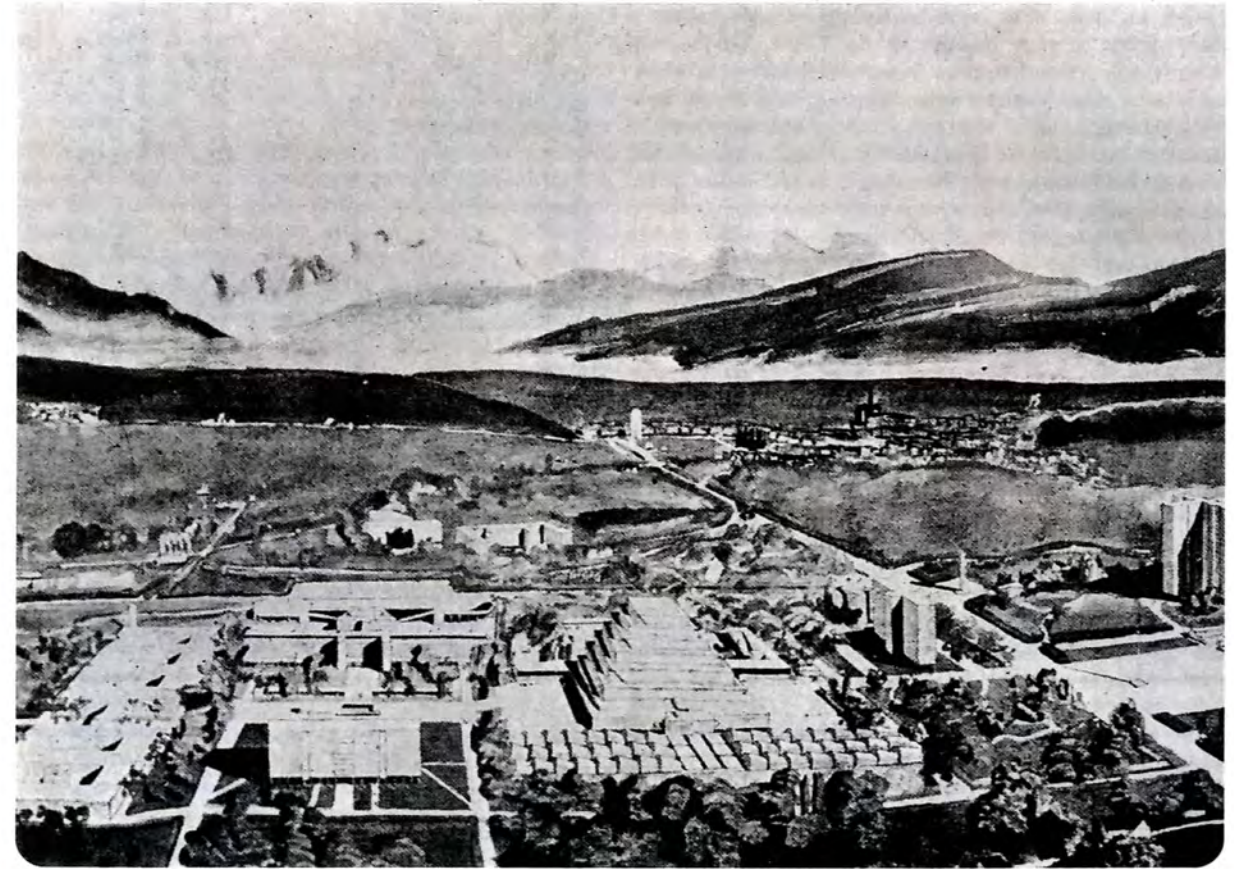


Mundaneum

Le Corbusier

Geneva, Switzerland, 1929

Conceived as the "city of the intellect," Belgian lawyer Paul Otlet dreamed of a place that would centralize all of the world's knowledge in order to create a "permanent and complete representation of the entire world." Organized around a pyramidal ziggurat, Corbusier's plan was intended to not only provide a grounds for the massive collection of information, but also to the bring order and understanding that humanity craved.



MUSEUM (n) a place holy to the Muses, a building set apart for study, especially the institute for philosophy and research at Alexandria OR any large or motley collection of things, esp. outmoded or useless ones; the repository of such a collection.

MUSEUM (n) a place holy to the Muses, a building set apart for study, especially the institute for philosophy and research at Alexandria OR any large or motley collection of things, esp. outmoded or useless ones; the repository of such a collection.

LIBRARY (n) a place set apart to contain books for reading, study, or reference OR the books contained in a 'library': a large collection of books, public or private OR an organized collection of routines.

2257 BCE

Shang Xiang

2257 - 2208 BCE, Zhou Dynasty, also responsible for the creation of Pi Yong, Dong Xu, Gu Zong, Cheng Jun

600 BCE

Library Of Ashurbanipal

The ancient library includes royal inscriptions, chronicles, mythological and religious texts, contracts, royal grants and decrees, royal letters, assorted administrative documents, and even what would be today called classified documents, reports from spies, ambassadors, etc.

Taxila 6th c BCE, Pakistan

280 BCE

Library Of Alexandria

The first known library of its kind to gather a serious collection of books from beyond its country's borders, the Library at Alexandria was charged with collecting all the world's knowledge. It did so through an aggressive and well-funded royal mandate involving trips to the book fairs of Rhodes and Athens [5] and a (potentially apocryphal or exaggerated) policy of pulling the books off every ship that came into port, keeping the originals and returning copies to their owners.

Shūyuàn (academies) 725, Tang Dynasty

There were more than 7,000 academies of Shuyuan recorded. In the late Qing dynasty, some of the Shuyuan became universities, middle schools, public libraries and museums.

860 CE

Library Of Cordoba

1200 CE

Monastic Libraries

Modern Public Library - birth of the printing press

Musei Wormiani Historia Encyclopedie

Briish Museum

Birst of the modern public museum.

1759 CE

1928 CE

Mundaneum

Age of New Media - personal computer + internet

Tres Grande Bibliotecque

Kansai Kan

Brabant Central Library

Seattle Public Library

Biblioteca Alexandrina

Remaking of the ancient Library of Alexandria in Cairo.

2003 CE

archive

library

library, collection of books

library, collection of useful information



PER CAPITA INTERNET ACCESS



BOOKS PUBLISHED PER YEAR



RADIO PER CAPITA



POPULATION



GDP



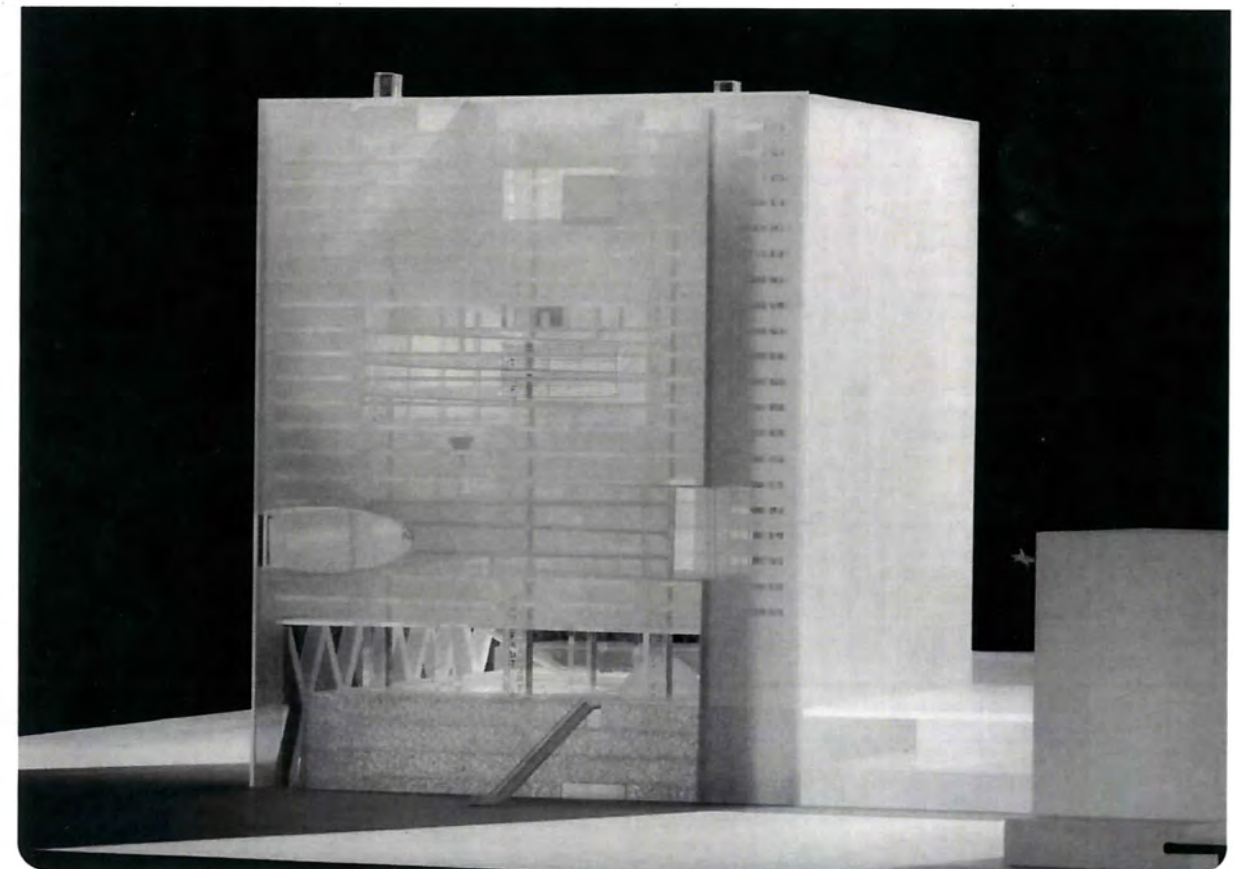
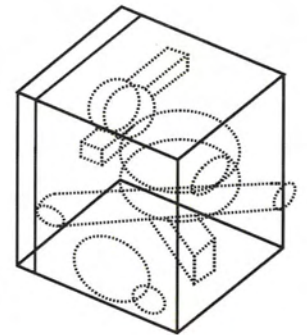
LITERACY RATE

Each of these projects anticipates
a precipitous change in knowledge
infrastructure and attempts to prepare for
that change. Each, however, fail to rid
themselves of the antiquated program that
they called into question in the first place.

Tres Grande Bibliotheque

Office for Metropolitan Architecture
Paris, 1987

Consolidates five separate institutions to house every word and image produced since 1945. Anticipates the digital revolution calling for architecture embrace its last function - "the creation of symbolic spaces that accommodate the persistent desire for collectivity."

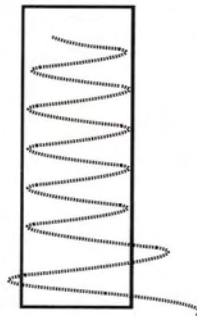


Brabant Central Library

MVRDV

Brabant County, Netherlands, 2000

The village public library model is a legacy of the sixties. A centralized, physically present collection of all the province's books challenges the development of digital media, stimulates the experience of reading and encourages a coincidental transfer of information through chance encounters.

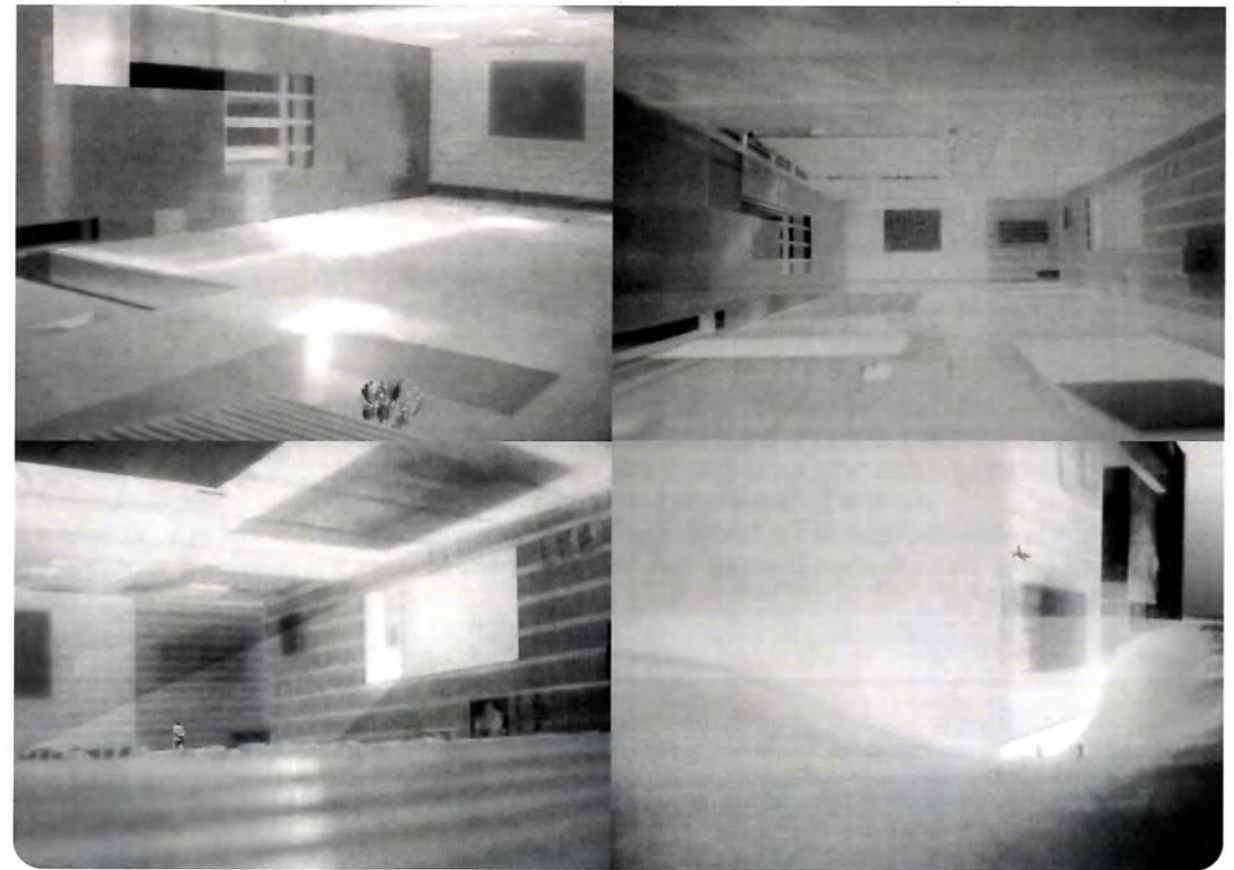
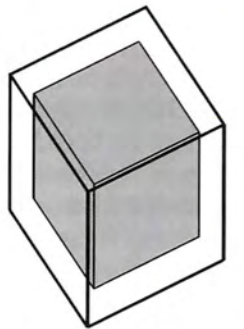


Kansai Kan

Office for Metropolitan Architecture

Kansai Science City, Japan, 1996

The need for knowledge to be stored in a single space is offset by the ability of electronics to deliver information effortless and anywhere. Kansai negotiates this dilemma by enclosing a single, open public space with the given program - each wall and floor as deep and active as the other.



Adaptation

The library is not all lost.

Without the program that defined its existence for five hundred years, however, it must adapt.

When all the books have been recycled and all the stacks have been removed, what remains is the symbolic, collective space that has been hidden by the traditional use of the type. This space of collectivity has always wielded the power in architecture as the rest of the building merely exists to serve a specific need.⁴ In the case of the library, it was the most efficient means of storing the objects which contained knowledge.

However, the true meaning of the library has always existed in its ability to provide the symbolic and collective space where knowledge was disseminated to all.

This is where the new definition of the House of Knowledge must take its roots; in the space that will always be left after its last function.

The new filters

No longer the most efficient means of disseminating knowledge, the book has given way to the faster, more flexible, and more accessible modes of the information age. Given little time or patience to work with from their recipients, these newly popular mediums cannot afford to organize and source information in the objective way that books traditionally have.

Subjectivity runs rampant in the contemporary world of knowledge dissemination. Opinion is simply easier to distribute.

This new ease in dissemination leads to an ease in absorption and, on one hand, a public that is generally more aware of what is going on in the world. As long as it is clear that the information being relayed to them has been filtered by subjectivity and injected with opinion, this is not inherently problematic.

However, it is often unclear that the "knowledge" being disseminated is, in fact, not true. Without a proper distinction being drawn to show the subjective nature of these sources, it is possible that opinion will be mistaken for fact.⁵

⁴ Michel Foucault, "Space, Knowledge, and Power," in *Power: Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984*, ed. James D. Faubion (London: Penguin Books, 2002), 361.

⁵ Modern mythologies leading to destructive misunderstanding are born every day out of the confusion of constructed ideas as nature. Barthes, *Mythologies*, trans. Jonathan Cape (London: Vintage, 2000), 129.

Bullshit⁶

A visible distinction between fact and opinion must be made.

As the speed of access to information continues to increase, it seems we are either willing to accept this emerging concentration of subjectivity or we become much less concerned with validity.

We must be weary of the latter. As Frankfurt argues, a lack of concern for validity is detrimental to the proliferation of a productive society. He describes a bullshitter as someone who has no regard for truth, or even necessarily what he believes in. Rather, one who bullshits is concerned only with convincing another of their argument.

Strangely, this flexibility in one's beliefs can also be beneficial, at least momentarily. In the "bull-session" there is an opportunity to disregard what you believe to be true, allowing you to test a new set of beliefs through argument. Like de Certeau's concept of the tactic, it is the opportunity to challenge accepted knowledge; "a matter of making the worse argument seem better."⁷

Bullshitting is the matter of keeping deliberation active.

Truth

Before the relative stability of truth was debated by philosophers and epistemologists in an exhaustive effort to find its meaning, a Greek word existed that described truth as "the state of not being hidden; the state of being evident."

Heidegger revived this concept, *aletheia*, in an attempt to counter the search for the meaning of truth that had been going on since the age of Socrates.

He explains that *aletheia* is the truth that emerges when something is first revealed and not anything else that may be connected with that first appearance in space.⁸

Thus, the active deliberation that exists to uncover new knowledge is an act of *aletheia*.

Deliberation for truth.

⁶ Harry Frankfurt, *On Bullshit* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005).

⁷ Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, trans. Steven Rendall (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984), 31.

⁸ Martin Heidegger, *Being and Time*, trans. Joan Stambaugh (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1996), 64.

ARCHITECTURE FOR DELIBERATION

A collection of projects designed for the deliberation of knowledge in varying programmatic and spatial settings.

The Geoscope

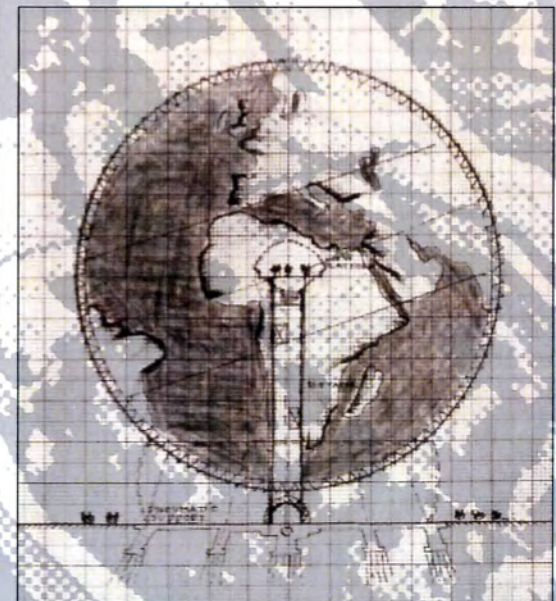
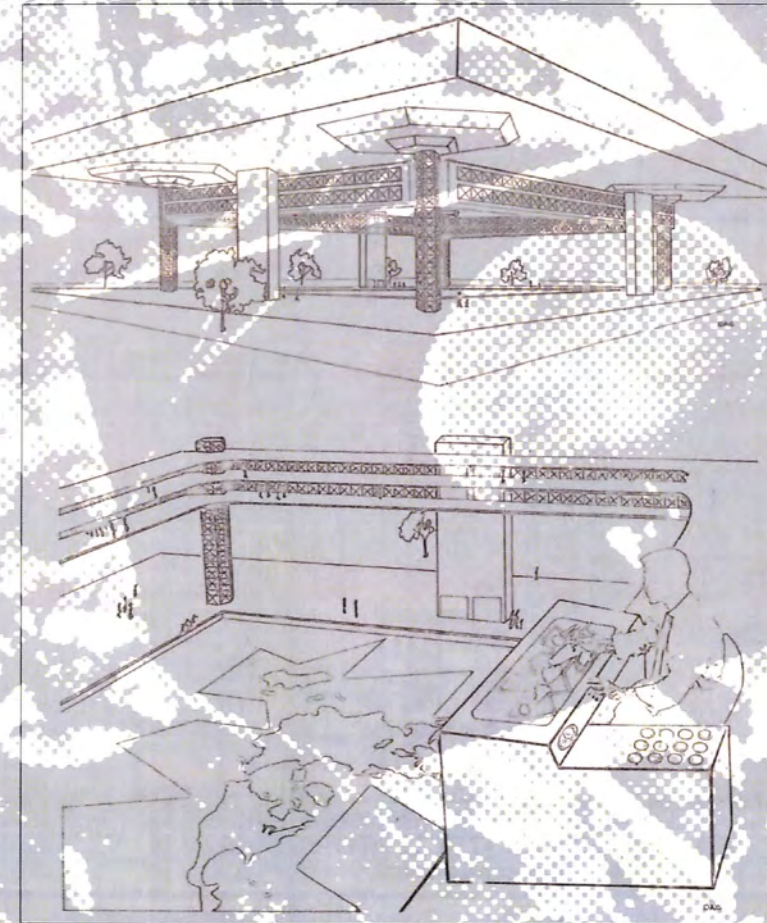
World Game and Minni-Earth
Buckminster Fuller

Fuller developed and deployed the Geoscope, a large occupiable globe, in multiple contexts in order to encourage democratic deliberation. Displaying data that varied from sociological to climatological, the Geoscope would inform people about the world, challenging them to use resources better to fit their needs. The World Game and Minni-Earth were two separate deployments of the Geoscope project, the first as a proposal for the Expo 67 pavilion at Montreal and the second as an installation about Blackwell's Island in Manhattan, directly across from the United Nations headquarters.⁹

left: Drawing of Fuller's World Game for Expo 67. Players are aware of each other's moves based on computer interaction.

upper right: Minni-Earth at Blackwell's Island. Was intended to project data that could shape the decisions of those in the voting body.

lower right: section of a Minni-Earth.



⁹ Jonathan Massey, "Buckminster Fuller's cybernetic pastoral: the United States Pavilion at Expo 67," *The Journal of Architecture* 11:4 (2006), 472.

Capitol Building

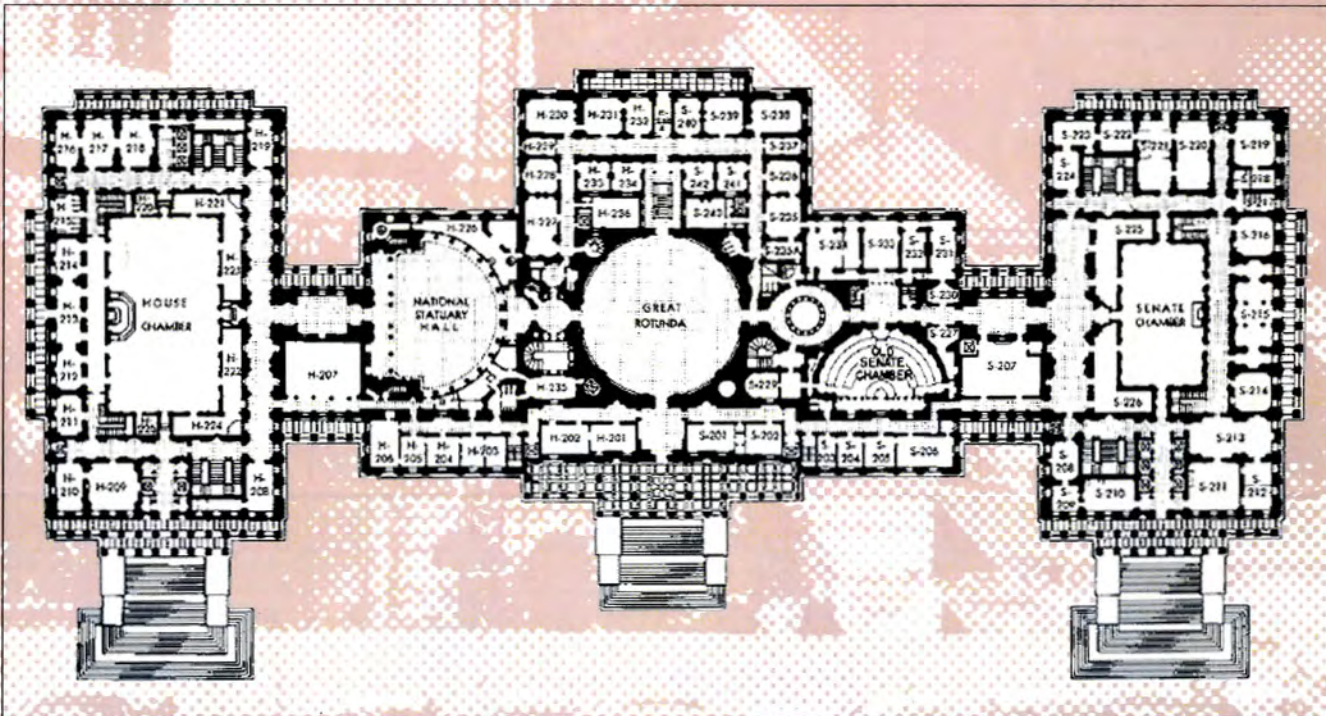
William Thornton et al.
Washington, DC, 1793

House of the lawmaking body of the United States. Originally designed without the wings that the Senate and House of Representatives currently each occupy. The Senate wing was added in 1800 and the House wing in 1811. Each wing contains a gallery where Congressional sessions are held to deliberate the issues which will be shaped into law. Both the House and Senate galleries are open to the public and all are encouraged to attend Congressional meetings.



left: Senate gallery - added in 1800 to accommodate the growing government branches.

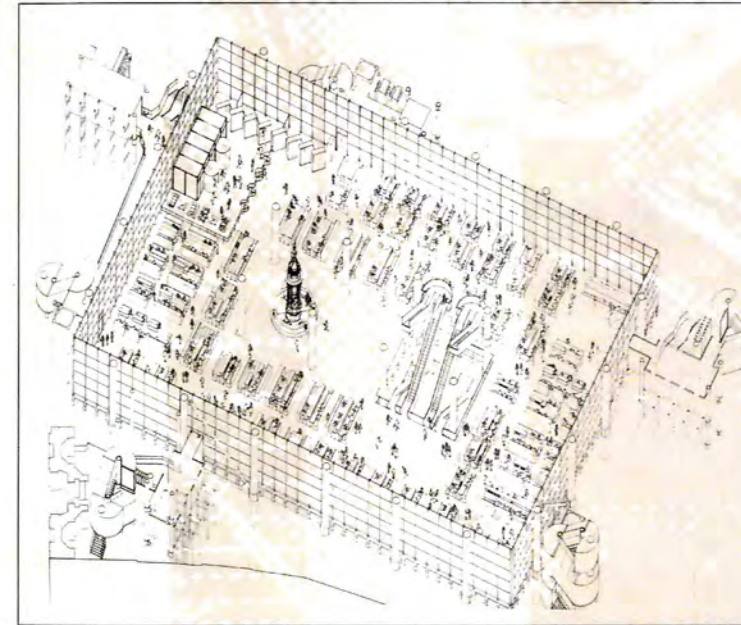
below: First floor plan of the building, including the added Senate (at right) and House of Representative (at left) wings.



Lloyd's of London

Richard Rogers Partnership
London, England, 1986

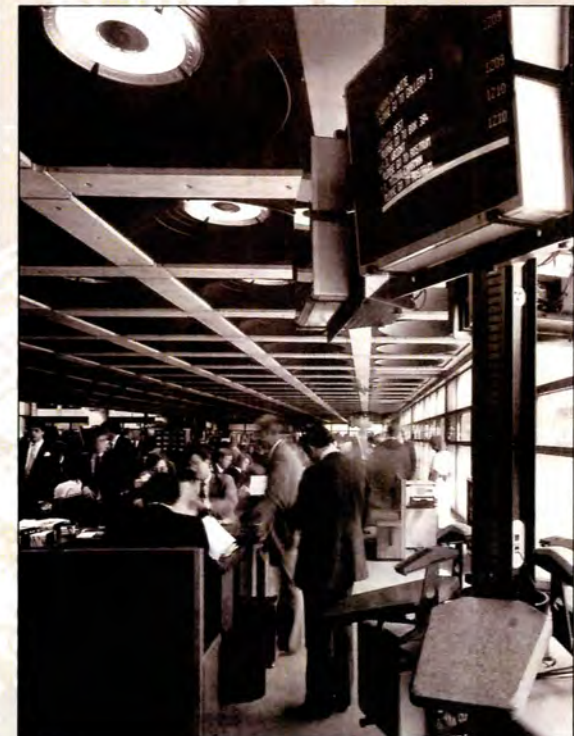
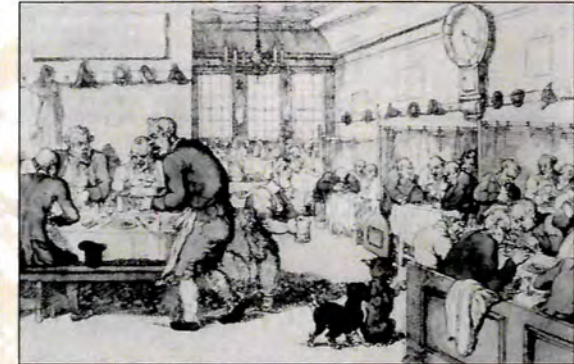
Self-defined as "a large market in the City, where insurance risks are traded in a traditional manner." Lloyd's began as a coffee house in the 18th century, offering insurance to those who would come to state their case. When the new trade building was constructed more than two hundred years later, the focus was still on the production of a symbolic, collective space that would allow for easy mobility and visibility on the floor in order to encourage that same deliberation between client and rival traders.



left: Axonometric drawing of Rogers' design for the new floor, organized around a center hearth-like piece.

upper right: The original Lloyd's coffee house was a notoriously intense place of debate.

lower right: Contemporary photograph of the trade floor. The space is continually full of active debate in the effort to cut a good deal.



The lobby.

**WHAT IF THE LOBBYING PROCESS WAS JUXTAPOSED WITH COLLECTIVE
SPACE?**

**LOBBYISTS ARE A CONTEMPORARY FILTER OF KNOWLEDGE - ONE THAT
DIRECTLY ALTERS THE GUIDING CANONS OF SOCIETY.**

**THEIR DISTORTION OF KNOWLEDGE TO ACHIEVE A SPECIFIC CAUSE CAN BE
REVEALED IN THEIR DIVERGENT VIEWS AS THEY COME INTO PROXIMITY WITH
ONE ANOTHER.**

**AS A HOUSE OF EXPERTS IN EVERY IMAGINABLE FIELD OF INFORMATION,
THIS NEW HOUSE OF KNOWLEDGE EXISTS TO PROVOKE THE DELIBERATION
OF EMERGENT ISSUES IN THE UNITED STATES.**



The brief.

This project proposes to engage symbolic, collective space with lobbyists in Washington DC.

The program: space for the 20 major lobbying industries in the US juxtaposed with the collective space of the lobby.

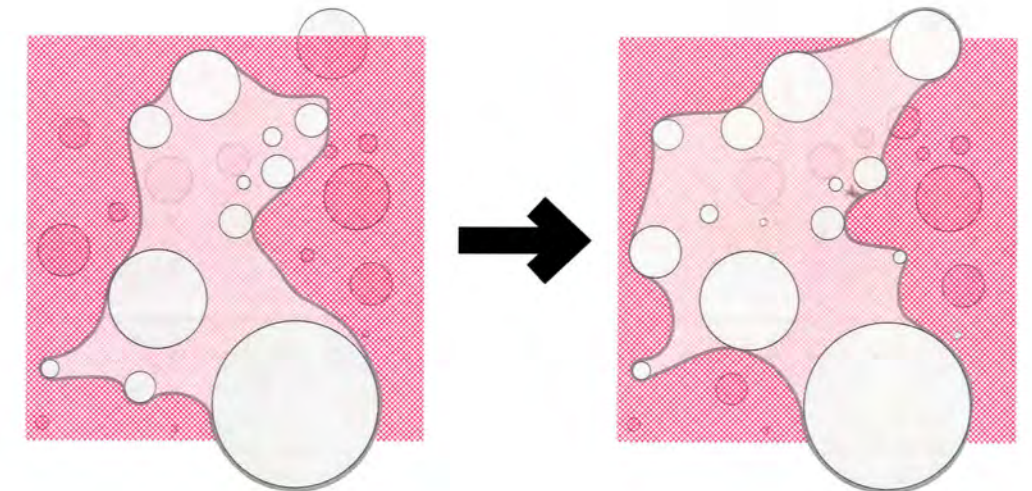
The goal: public deliberation of emergent issues within society; a new house of deliberation.

Proposed project site.

CAPITOL HILL

WASHINGTON DC

The capitol space of deliberation in Washington, where knowledge is filtered into law. Lobbyists currently engage in this process from a distance and could potentially play a greater and more legitimate role given the right space.



The lobbies.

Though the issues are in a perpetual state of flux, we can be sure that something is always being lobbied for.

The twenty major lobbying industries are represented in the following pages with a comparison between the total amount of money spent in the industry and citizen awareness of the same issues. All of the financial data was gathered from the Center for Responsive Politics and the public trend data from Google.

Pharmaceuticals found in water

Associated Press
March 10, 2008

Press investigation has found a vast array of pharmaceuticals in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans in 24 major metropolitan areas.

They include antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones, as well as over-the-counter pain medicines.

Traces of antidepressants and pain relievers like ibuprofen were found in source water in Virginia Beach. Source water is water that is untreated.

But tests on treated drinking water did NOT detect any pharmaceuticals in that area.

Source water in Fairfax had traces of multiple antibiotics, but NO testing was conducted on the drinking water in that area.

The concentrations are far below the levels of a medical dose, but some scientists are worried about the long-term consequences to human health.

Researchers don't yet understand the exact risks from decades of exposure to

NPS Pharmaceuticals to Report Second Quarter 2008 Financial Results

BEDMINSTER, N.J., Jul 29, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE)

NPSP | Quote | Chart | News | PowerRating -- NPS Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: NPSP | Quote | Chart | News | PowerRating) announced today that it will report its second quarter 2008 financial results on Thursday, August 7, 2008 post-market. The announcement will be followed by a conference call and webcast at 4:30 pm Eastern Time.

To participate in the conference call, dial (800) 561-2813 and use passcode 63518178. International callers may dial (617) 614-3529, using the same passcode. In addition, a live audio of the conference call will be available over the Internet. Interested parties can access the event through the NPS website, <http://www.npsp.com>.

A replay will be available at (888) 286-8010, with passcode 88115831, until midnight Eastern Time, August 14, 2008. International callers may access the replay by dialing (617) 801-6888, using the same passcode. The webcast will also be available through the NPS website for the same period.

About NPS Pharmaceuticals

NPS Pharmaceuticals is developing specialty therapeutics for gastrointestinal and endocrine disorders with high unmet medical needs. The company is

Fresenius To Buy APP Pharmaceuticals for \$3.7 Billion

Reuters | 07 Jul 2008 | 02:07 PM ET

German medical group Fresenius unveiled a \$3.7 billion deal to buy U.S. company APP Pharmaceuticals to take control of a key drug used by its dialysis unit.

The agreed takeover, one of the biggest by the healthcare group, sent Fresenius shares tumbling as much as 11 percent as analysts cited a high price and after the company said it would finance part of the deal through a capital increase.

Fresenius owns the biggest worldwide provider of dialysis services, and dominates that market with U.S. rival DaVita [DVA 50.25 1.58 (+3.25%)].

APP has become the main supplier of the drug heparin after a recall by Baxter International [BAX 52.90 -0.37 (-0.69%)].

Heparin is a vital blood-thinning drug used in patients on dialysis, a procedure to clear the blood of waste that is used mostly in patients with kidney disease.

By taking control of APP, [APPX 23.6834 -0.0166 (-0.07%)] Fresenius could curb the rise in heparin's price, Oppenheimer analyst Balaji

King Pharmaceuticals Reports Second-Quarter 2008 Financial Results

BRISTOL, Tenn., Aug 07, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE)

King Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (NYSE:KG) announced today that total revenues were \$397 million during the second quarter ended June 30, 2008, compared to \$543 million in the second quarter of 2007. This decrease was primarily due to the market entry of generic substitutes for ALTACE(R) (ramipril). Reported net earnings equaled \$43 million and diluted earnings per share equaled \$0.18 during the second quarter of 2008, compared to net earnings of \$65 million and diluted earnings per share of \$0.26 in the second quarter of the prior year. Excluding special items, net earnings equaled \$73 million and diluted earnings per share equaled \$0.30 during the second quarter ended June 30, 2008, reflecting a record high research and development investment of \$49 million, which included development milestones of \$21 million. Excluding special items, in the second quarter of 2007 net earnings equaled \$117 million and diluted earnings per share equaled \$0.48.

Brian A. Markison, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of King, stated, "We are particularly pleased by the AVINZA(R) total prescription growth of 5.2% versus the same quarter of last year and the continued strong performance of THROMBIN-JMI(R)."

Mr. Markison continued, "More importantly, we remain on track to attain our goal

Oscient Pharmaceuticals (OSCI) Commences Exchange Offer

October 21, 2008 3:32 PM EDT

Oscient Pharmaceuticals Corporation (Nasdaq: OSCI) has commenced its offer to exchange up to \$67,710,000 aggregate principal amount of new 12.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2011 and shares of the Company's common stock for up to all of the \$225,700,000 aggregate principal amount of its currently outstanding 3.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2011.

In the proposed exchange, Oscient would offer for each \$1,000 principal amount of the Company's 3.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2011, \$300 principal amount of new 12.50% Convertible Senior Notes due 2011, and shares of Oscient common stock having a value equal to \$200, subject to certain conditions.

Oscient Pharmaceuticals Corporation is a commercial-stage pharmaceutical company marketing Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved products in the United States

Javelin Pharmaceuticals to Review Third Quarter 2008 Financial Results

November 6, 2008 7:40 AM EST

CAMBRIDGE, Mass.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--

Javelin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (AMEX: JAV) announced today that its CEO, Martin J. Driscoll, and Stephen J. Tullipano, CFO, will host a conference call to discuss the Company's quarterly results for the period ending September 30, 2008. The call will be held Monday, November 10, 2008 at 8:30a.m. EST.

The Company invites all interested parties to participate. The call will be webcast and accessible live through the following URL: ir.javelinpharmaceuticals.com/events.cfm.

CONFERENCE CALL ALERT

Javelin Pharmaceuticals, Inc. Q3 2008 Earnings Call

Date: November 10, 2008

Time: 08:30m E.S.T.

Please dial: (877) 675-4757 or International (719) 325-4935

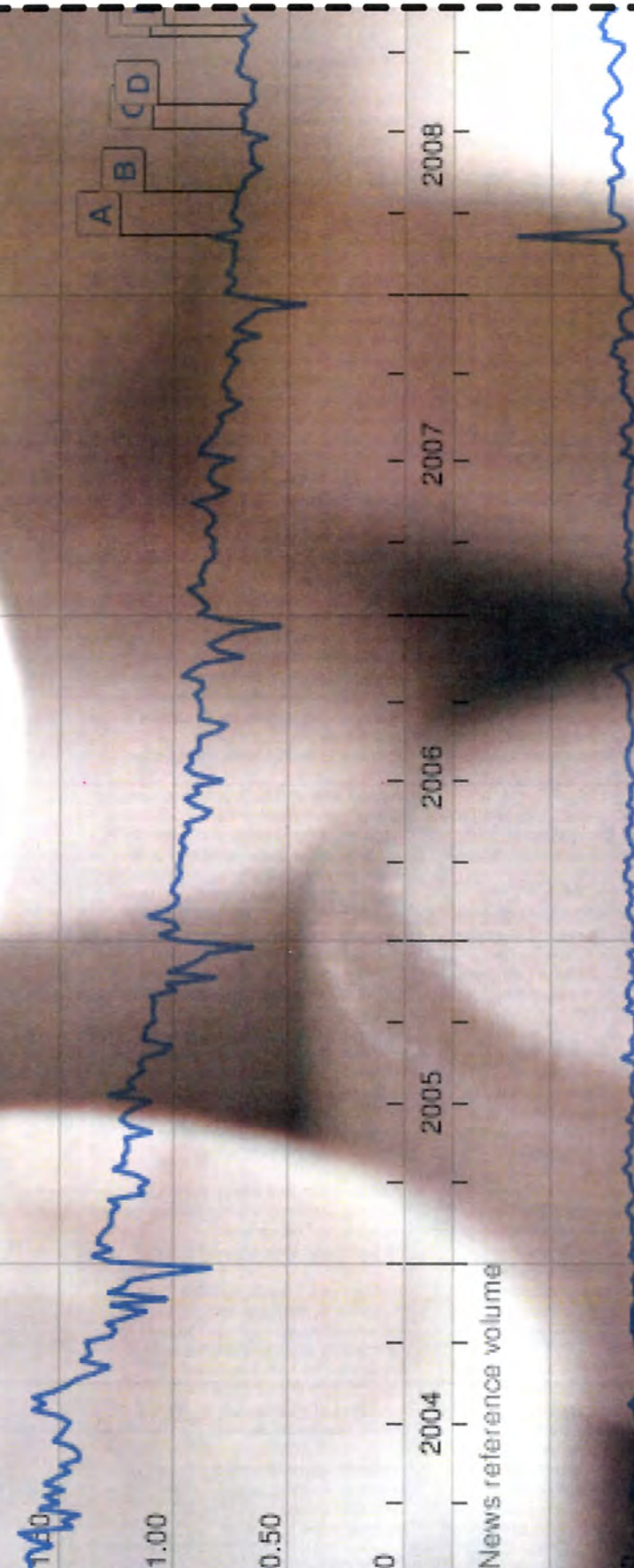
The call will be archived at the Company's website:

www.javelinpharmaceuticals.com.

About Javelin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.:

Google Trends

Search Volume index



\$1,499,696,090

Lawmakers, parents and insurance providers are working together to improve healthcare coverage for Floridians with developmental disabilities. Florida's Office of Insurance Regulation chaired a Developmental Disabilities Compact Workgroup meeting Tuesday. The collective goal is to improve coverage for early diagnosis and rehabilitative services like speech and physical therapy. "We'd like to see all kids who need this therapy have access to it," said Elizabeth Emken, Vice President of Government Relations with Autism Speaks and parent of an autistic child. "All children will make gains that will at least enable them to be a functioning member of their family." But the cost of therapy can be pricey and some insurers say the treatment is experimental and it doesn't work for everyone. "How do you figure out where it's working and where it's not working," said Jay Faber, Commercial/Medical Director of Behavioral Health with Humana. "Second, for lack of better wording is cost, how do you pay for all of this and make financial sense?" Florida's legislature drafted an autism bill during the 2008 Legislative Session last spring. The bill improves insurance coverage for autism patients but does not cover all developmental disabilities. The "Window of Opportunity Act" allows beneficiaries to take advantage of up to \$36,000 each year and caps the lifetime coverage at \$200,000. Some parents want that "cap" removed and they want to make sure other developmental disabilities are covered as well. Each member of the workgroup is supposed to come up with their own ideas and a proposal before next month's meeting. The "Window of Opportunity Act" becomes law April 1, 2009.

Anderson Receives 2008 Women in Insurance Leadership Award

Insurance Networking News Women in Insurance Leadership Forum ANOKA, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Rural Community Insurance Services (a Wells Fargo Company) announces that Judy Anderson, manager of insurance product services, has been named a Women in Insurance Leadership Award winner by Insurance Networking News magazine.

The award program is designed to honor female insurance executives who have had a significant impact on their businesses. Nominees were judged on their overall influence on their companies, the insurance industry as a whole and the communities in which they live and work.

"For years, hundreds of women across the carrier, broker and agent communities have held executive leadership positions in the industry, moving to greater and more diverse positions of influence and authority," said Carrie Burns, Insurance Networking News' senior managing editor and Women's Leadership project manager. "We are pleased to continue to recognize the unique accomplishments of our industry's prominent female leaders."

Anderson has been in the crop insurance industry since the early 1960s, beginning her career with the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) in North Dakota, where she managed the operations of the Bismarck office. One of the few women leaders in a male dominated industry, Anderson served as a resource and advisor when the crop insurance industry was privatized in 1981 and has worked on a number of national initiatives for the industry's trade association, National Crop Insurance Services (NCIS).

As Manager of Insurance Product Services for Rural Community Insurance Services (RCIS), Anderson leads a team that supports agents in the areas of crop insurance procedures, technical and product training and marketing function. She has played a pivotal role as RCIS has grown to be a leader in the crop insurance industry, helping to streamline or replace paper processes, develop proprietary software applications (including policy processing software) and create intranet sites to support both RCIS agency teams and policyholder.

In nominating Anderson for the Women in Insurance Leadership Award, RCIS Corporate Secretary and Manager of Corporate Licensing and Contracting Marlene Merten noted, "Judy's influence on our business extends well beyond her impact on the processes and structures that let us handle the volume of business that comes with being the nation's largest crop insurance company. She has also influenced our business through the way she interacts with team members and customers. Judy treats everyone with respect and compassion and is truly interested in them as people. She has built positive, long-standing relationships with our agents through her professional style and her concern for

US in \$85B Bailout of Insurance Giant AIG

The US government has announced its second major financial bailout this month, agreeing to take over the troubled insurance giant American International Group, or AIG. At an \$85 billion cost, the New York Times calls it the most radical intervention in private business in the central bank's history. The AIG bailout comes just weeks after the government takeover of the federally chartered mortgage companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. More on this story after headlines. Obama, McCain Chide Wall Street

The troubles on Wall Street continue to dominate talk on the campaign trail. In Colorado, Senator Barack Obama blamed the economy's woes on Bush administration policies. Sen. Barack Obama: "What we've seen the last few days is nothing less than the final verdict on an economic philosophy that has completely failed. And I am running for president of the United States, because the dream of the American people must not be endangered anymore." Meanwhile, Senator John McCain has backtracked from previous comments that "fundamentals" of the American economy are "strong." Campaigning in Miami, McCain said "the top" of the economy is broken. Sen. John McCain: "The top of our economy is broken. We've seen self-interest, greed, irresponsibility and corruption undermine the hard work of the American people. It's time to set things right, and I promise to get the job done as your president." Dems Fight GOP Foreclosure-Linked Vote Caging

In other campaign news, the Obama camp has filed a suit to block a controversial voter suppression tactic in Michigan. The Republican Party in Macomb County admitted this week it plans to use a list of foreclosed homes to block people from voting on Election Day. The plan is likely to disproportionately affect African Americans who are overwhelmingly Democratic voters. In Michigan, more than 60 percent of all subprime loans were made to African Americans. McCain's regional headquarters are housed in the office building of foreclosure specialists Trott & Trott. Petraeus Ends Iraq Stint; Iraqis Protest Gates' Visit

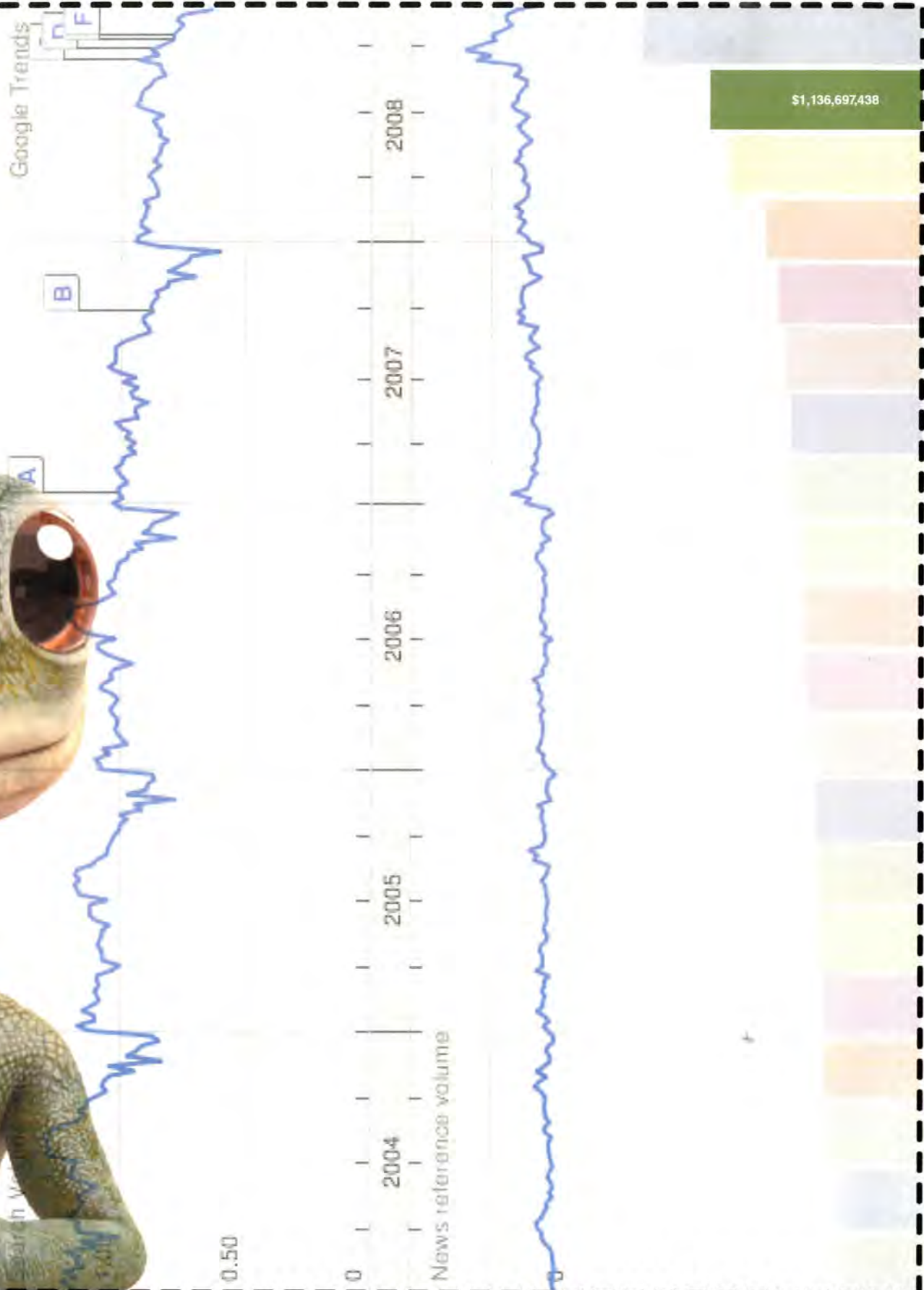
In Iraq, General Ray Odierno has replaced General David Petraeus as the top military commander of the US occupation. Petraeus oversaw the so-called US surge that increased the occupation by 30,000 troops. On Tuesday, hundreds of residents of the Baghdad district of Sadr City protested the visit of Defense Secretary Robert Gates to Iraq. Gates was in Baghdad for the transfer of command to General Odierno. Sayyid al-Husseini of the Sadrist Movement said the US has ignored Iraqi public opinion. Sayyid al-Husseini: "Big demonstrations have been staged in front of the office of al-Sadr to condemn and denounce the visit of the US defense secretary, because these people refuse the visits of any US official whilst demanding the pullout of US occupation gradually from Iraq or issue a timetable for their withdrawal." 16 Dead in Attack on US Embassy in Yemen

In Yemen, at least sixteen people have been killed in an attack on the US embassy in the capital Sanna. A suicide bomber reportedly drove a vehicle into the embassy compound, followed by armed militants who opened fire. It's the second attack on the US embassy in Yemen this year. 4 Troops Killed in Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, four troops in the US-led coalition have been killed in a roadside bombing. 2008 has already passed last year as the deadliest so far for the US occupation of Afghanistan. US to Expand Main Afghan Prison

In other news from Afghanistan, new details are being revealed about US plans to expand its main prison there, Bagram Air Base. USA Today reports the Bush administration will increase so-called intelligence operations at Bagram. The Pentagon is seeking to hire more interrogators to question prisoners and provide intelligence for battlefield operations. The US plans to increase Bagram's capacity from 600 to 1,000 prisoners. Several former prisoners have described conditions of harsh torture at the Bagram jail. Bolivia, Governors Agree to Talks

In Bolivia, opposition governors have agreed to talks with President Evo Morales amidst an ongoing political crisis. On Tuesday, Bolivian troops arrested opposition governor Leopoldo Fernandez of the Pando province. Fernandez was accused in the massacre of up to thirty peasant Morales supporters last week.



Czech NWR investing 300 mln eur into its coal mining group OKD
11.19.07, 12:25 PM ET

PRAGUE (Thomson Financial) - New World Resources (NWR) will invest 300 mln eur into mining equipment for its fully-owned OKD group, the largest hard coal mining group in the Czech Republic, the company said today.

NWR, which is expected to go public in Prague and London this year, said it will invest the money over the next two years.

'It will have a positive impact on the productivity and efficiency levels of our Czech mining operations, and will result in OKD being able to safely mine deeper, which will assist in the conversion of resources into reserves,' OKD's CEO Klaus-Dieter Beck said in a press release.

OKD, NWR's main holding, sold 13.5 mln tonnes of coal in 2006.

Coal Mining Services: State Market Index Report Details Industry Sales for Both Company-Wide Headquarters Data and Locally Generated Sales Levels

DUBLIN, Ireland--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Research and Markets (<http://www.researchandmarkets.com/reports/c52367>) has announced the addition of "Coal Mining Services: State Market Index" to their offering.

The metrics in this report cover three year trends in SIC 1241 (Mining sector), broken out on a state-by-state basis. Analysis is based on data applied from 640 industry firms. Industry market vitality measures for each state are benchmarked against US averages for the industry, creating easy comparison of state-by-state performance. Industry sales are detailed for both company-wide headquarters data and locally generated sales levels. The report also compares proprietary BizMiner measures in each state and the US, including failure rates, entrepreneurial activity and new branch development rates in the industry.

These reports reflect data from firms which identify themselves as operating primarily in the line of business being analyzed. Sales from secondary lines of business are attributed to the primary classification unless reported through a separately organized entity. Raw data utilized in these reports is sourced from the nations most acknowledged business credit reporting agencies and other private databases. In total, over half a billion sourced data points were accessed from eighteen million business operations for each of the twice annual updates.

Census and other government data is used incidentally to inform and test projections for non-reporting firms. Failure rates, experience-rated survivor measures and sales analysis of business operations are based on information supplied largely by business owners and representatives. Inaccurate information supplied by business owners or representatives may affect the analysis. Failure rates assume that the discontinuation of a facility's presence among the reporting databases reflects the discontinuation of operations of that facility.

EPA eases rule on mountaintop coal mining debris
Wed Dec 3, 2008 2:06pm EST Email | Print | Share | Reprints | Single Page | Recommend (-)

1 of 1 Full Size
By Deborah Zabarenko, Environment Correspondent

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The Bush administration is easing the way for coal companies to dump debris from mountaintop mining into nearby valleys and streams in a move deplored by environmental and Appalachian citizens' groups.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday approved the repeal of a 1983 law that prohibited surface coal mining within 100 feet of flowing streams. Most U.S. surface coal mining is done in the steep mountains of Appalachia, across Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky.

EPA's approval was the last hurdle for a proposal that originated at the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining. The rule goes into effect 30 days after publication in the Federal Register, which has not yet occurred.

This will allow more mountaintop-removal mining, where coal is mined by blasting off the tops of mountains and the crumbled mountaintop debris is pushed into adjoining valleys, environmental groups said in a statement.

"The EPA's own scientists have concluded that dumping mining waste into

Site of coal mining tragedy was home to Maine man
January 5, 2006

AUGUSTA, Maine --An East Winthrop man is no stranger to the West Virginia coal mine where a dozen men died after being trapped by an explosion.

John Fabbriatore's engineer father designed the machinery that carries coal from the entrance of the Sago Mine and the younger Fabbriatore traveled the tunnels of the mine as a child.

Fabbriatore, 39, attended school just a narrow, winding road from the mine. He still knows people who work there -- and two of the miners who died.

He went to bed early Wednesday morning, believing like millions of others that the miners had miraculously survived.

"I guess I went to bed 10 minutes too early," Fabbriatore said. Learning of the deaths, he added, "was like a punch in the gut."

To watch the drama surrounding Monday's explosion unfold on national television and view the suffering of people he remembers was a disorienting experience for Fabbriatore.

"I'm seeing the place where I grew up," he said. "I'm looking at hills and rocks I know."

Fabbriatore and his family moved to Buckhannon, W. Va., in 1976, when his father took a job with the mine. His father, John Fabbriatore Sr., died in 2004, but his mother, Zola Fabbriatore, still lives 5 miles from the mine.

The sun shone in Buckhannon on Wednesday and it was nearly 60 degrees, but Zola Fabbriatore said a quiet, mournful gloom hung over the town.

"This is a small town. Everybody does know everybody," she said. "There will be a lot of grief for a long time. A long time."

While he never considered working in the mine, John Fabbriatore understands why men would ignore the dust and obvious danger to take the jobs.

"It's unskilled labor," he said, "but those guys make a ton of money."

After college, Fabbriatore left for graduate school and came to Maine to work as an athletic trainer.

He found similarities between his adopted state and the one he left, with both combining rural poverty and natural beauty.

West Virginia remains in his heart, he said, and it hurts to see tragedy strike his hometown and the coal mine his father helped build.

China's Yanzhou Coal courts Australia's Felix

By Peter Smith in Sydney

Published: December 5 2008 05:46 | Last updated: December 5 2008 05:46

China Inc's strategic interest in the Australian resources sector is continuing after Yanzhou Coal Mining was unmasked on Friday as a suitor for Felix Resources, the coal mining group.

Felix did not name Yanzhou in an Australian Stock Exchange announcement when it confirmed "interest in a potential change of control transaction." However, a person close to the situation identified Yanzhou as the interested party. Analysts have suggested Felix could be worth A\$15 a share equating to A\$3bn.

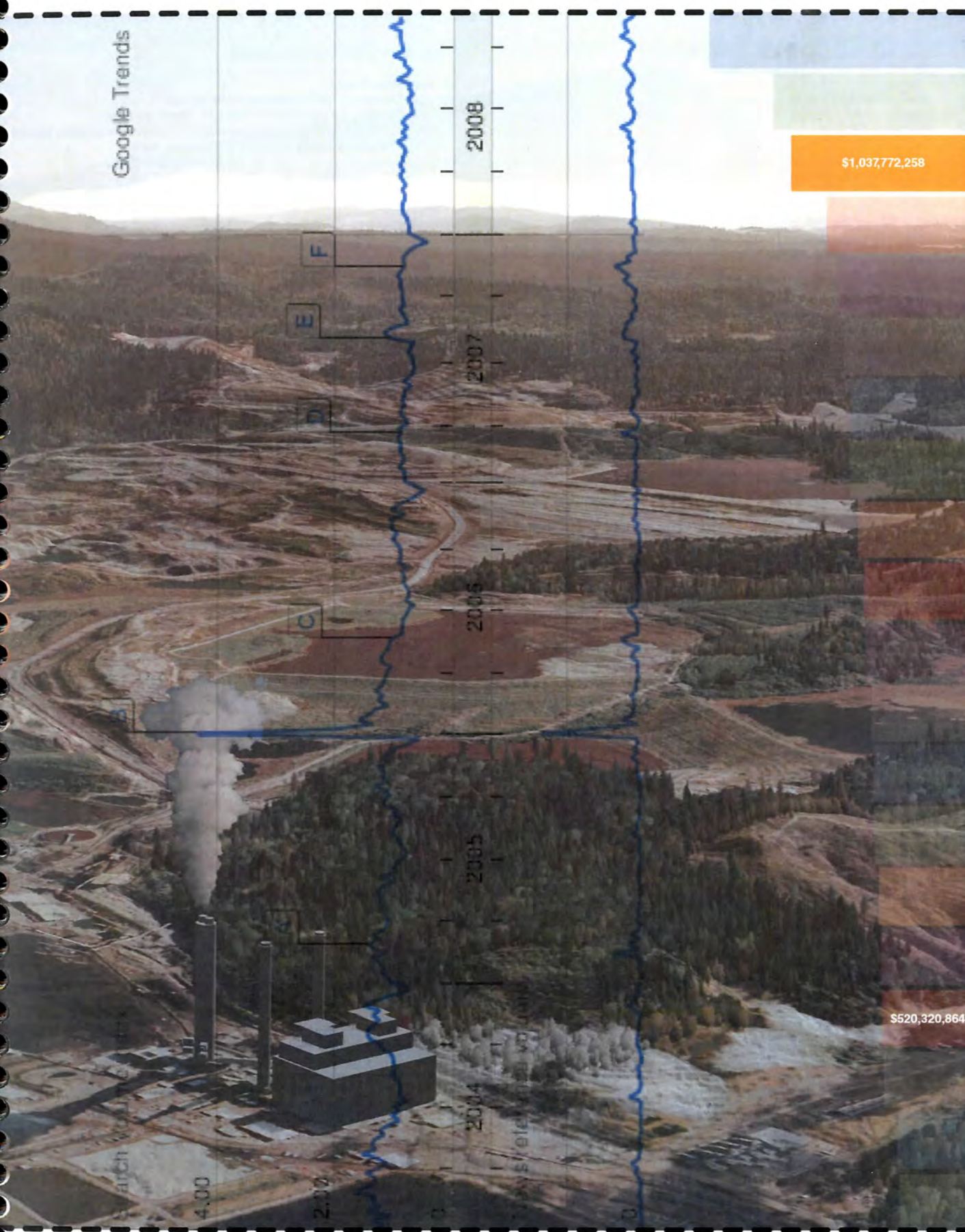
Felix shares surged A\$1.91 to A\$7.35, valuing the group at A\$1.4bn yesterday.

Australia's coal mining sector is consolidating and has attracted a host of international companies, including Switzerland-based Xstrata which bought Jubilee Mines for A\$3.1bn in February and Luxembourg's ArcelorMittal which bought 19.9 per cent of Macarthur Coal.

Xstrata and ArcelorMittal have previously shown interest in Felix as has Brazil's Vale.

Felix is a coal mining and exploration company with projects in Queensland and New South Wales. It produces high-grade semi-soft coking and thermal coals and its main markets are Japan, Europe and Korea.

Google Trends



Lawmaker says Chinese hacked Capitol computers
Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 10:49 a.m.

WASHINGTON, DC (AP) -- A congressman said Wednesday the FBI has found that four of his government computers have been hacked by sources working out of China.

Rep. Frank Wolf, a Virginia Republican, said that similar incidents - also originating from China - have taken place on computers of other members of the House and at least one House committee.

A spokesman for Wolf said the four computers in his office were being used by staff members working on human rights issues and that the hacking began in August 2006. Wolf is a longtime critic of the Chinese government's human rights record.

The congressman suggested the problem probably goes further. "If it's been done in the House, don't you think that they're doing the same thing in the Senate?" he asked.

"I think this is very bad because you have the Chinese compromising and gaining access to computers of any number of members of the House and a major committee of the House," Wolf told The Associated Press. "We don't know how many others."

Wolf declined to say how many other incidents of congressional computers being compromised he knows about or to identify which House committees were hit by to.

In calling for hearings in both the House and Senate, Wolf said the House members are serving in Congress whose computers have been compromised and they may not even know it.

Separately, U.S. authorities are investigating whether Chinese officials had copied the contents of a government laptop computer during a trip to China by Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez and used the information to gain access to Commerce Department computers.

The FBI declined to comment. In Beijing, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs had no immediate comment. Last week, China denied the allegations regarding Gutierrez's laptop and the alleged effort to hack Commerce Department computers.

Wolf said he has known about the hacking for a long time but has been reluctant from discussing it publicly by people inside U.S. government who are reluctant to identify.

"The problem has been that no one wants to talk about it," Wolf said. "Every time I've started to do something I've been told, 'Don't do it. It's a bad idea. People have made it very, very difficult.'"

Wolf plans to introduce a resolution that he says will force the House to audit all House computers and information systems. In a draft resolution, Wolf planned to deliver on the House floor Wednesday afternoon, he said. He said he is "deeply concerned that Congress is not adequately protected from cyber attacks."

"My own suspicion is I was targeted by China because they don't like me speaking out about China's abysmal human rights record," Wolf said in his remarks. He said Congress should hold hearings on the matter. The House Intelligence Committee, Armed Services Committee and House Select Operations Committee.

Wolf's resolution calls for the chief administrative officer of the House, in consultation with the FBI, to audit all House computers and information systems to the danger of electronic attacks. He also calls for the House to brief on ways to safeguard official records from electronic attacks.

Speaking generally in May 2006, Wolf called the hacking of his office "a major security threat" and said it was no secret that the United States intelligence services.

Ticket demand KO's Rockies computers

By Associated Press
Monday, October 22, 2007 - Updated 409d 13h ago
E-mail Printable (0) Comments Text size Share (0) Rate
DENVER - The Colorado Rockies suspended World Series ticket sales Monday after overwhelming demand crashed their computer system.

"Right now we're shutting the system down," club spokesman Jay Alves announced outside Coors Field, drawing boos from fans. "We expect to be online at some point."

007 - Updated 409d 13h ago
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BIG

Macy Gray

Big

\$839,486,564

Last month, as an Obama win looked increasingly inevitable, there were 62,000

Tristone Capital expands Houston Investment Banking team

CALGARY, Oct. 25 /PRNewswire/

Mr. Brian Williams has been appointed Managing Director, Investment Banking at Tristone Capital's Houston office. He will be responsible for North American Energy Service Investment Banking.

Mr. Williams brings to Tristone over 8 years of experience in energy service investment banking, in both the US and Canada. Formerly, he was with Simmons & Company International, where he oversaw buy- and sell-side, public and private company M&A, as well as private and public equity financings. Mr. Williams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School.

About Tristone: Tristone Capital is a global energy advisory firm that provides fully integrated Investment Banking, Acquisitions & Divestitures, and Global Equity Capital Markets services. Founded in 2000, Tristone has over 150 technical and financial experts throughout offices in the UK, Argentina, Canada and the United States. Tristone offers exclusively energy-focused expertise to exploration and production companies, oilfield service and midstream companies, government entities, royalty trusts, MLP's and institutional investors worldwide. Tristone Capital is a Member of the

US Preventive Medicine Announces Investment Banking Team

DALLAS and NEW YORK, May 6 /PRNewswire/

U.S. Preventive Medicine® (U.S. Preventive Medicine), the leader in prevention, today announced the company has selected its investment banking team, composed of Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch, UBS and Stanford Eagle to coordinate its long term capital strategy, mergers and acquisition efforts in the U.S. and internationally.

"The selection of some of the nation's best investment banks to co-manage our long term capitalization and M&A strategy is significant as we continue to align this company with the best of the best in the global financial markets. As the first entity in the U.S. and internationally to offer a full continuum of geographically dispersed comprehensive solutions for personalized medicine including preventive care, wellness and disease management, the addition of these leading financial advisors is very important," said Christopher Fey, Chairman and CEO of U.S. Preventive Medicine. "This is just one more sequential step in our planned growth of business."

Fey said U.S. Preventive Medicine's expansion into personalized medicine is the next step in the company's plan to provide practical solutions at every point in the healthcare continuum both nationally and internationally.

Report: Citigroup to shed 1,000 pink slips

NEW YORK, AP

Citigroup is reportedly preparing to lay off thousands from its worldwide investment-banking division.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the layoffs are part of a plan to cut about 10 percent of the staff of the 65,000-member investment-banking group.

The Journal, citing people familiar with the matter, says the first employees could be notified as early as today.

The New York-based global bank, along with much of Wall Street, is in the throes of recovering from bad investments in oil mortgages and leveraged loans that cut billions of dollars from its portfolio.

It's not clear if the reported job cuts will be in addition to cuts announced by Citigroup in April. After reporting a \$1.4-billion dollar first-quarter loss, the bank said it was reducing its staff by 1,000. In addition to the 4,200 job cuts it announced late last year.

Investment banking: Mortgage woes catch up with JP Morgan

Andrew Clark in New York
The Guardian, Wednesday August 13 2008

A shudder passed through the banking industry yesterday when JP Morgan revealed that the credit crunch had forced it to take fresh write-downs of \$1.5bn (£790m) on mortgage-backed securities.

The disclosure caused a sell-off in investment banking shares on Wall Street as investors were reminded that the crisis gripping credit markets is far from over.

JP Morgan's shares slumped by 7.5%, Merrill Lynch slipped by almost 5% and Goldman Sachs, which was downgraded by an influential analyst, dropped 5.6%.

In a regulatory filing, JP Morgan said trading conditions in the mortgage market "substantially deteriorated" in July. It admitted: "The investment bank continues to be negatively affected by the disruption in the credit and mortgage markets, as well as by overall lower levels of liquidity and wider credit spreads."

JP Morgan has suffered less damage from the credit crunch than some of its rivals under chief executive Jamie Dimon. But its latest losses amount to a deterioration from write-offs of \$1.1bn in the first quarter of the year, welcomed what they called a powerful precedent.

Barclays buying Lehman's North American investment banking and capital markets

Associated Press
Last updated: Wednesday, September 17th, 2008 12:02:00 AM

Barclays says it will acquire Lehman Brothers' North American investment banking and capital markets businesses for \$250 million in cash.

Lehman filed for bankruptcy protection Monday after it was unable to find financing or fresh capital to shore up its balance sheet amid the continued downturn in the credit markets.

Barclays said Tuesday it will acquire Lehman's North American banking operations, which include Lehman's fixed income and equities sales, trading and research and investment banking business. About 10,000 employees work in the divisions.

Barclays will also purchase Lehman's New York headquarters and its two data centers in New Jersey for \$1.5 billion.

The Delaware senator may well own guns, but that doesn't mean he doesn't think other Americans in the hinterlands should be able to cling to theirs. Although Montopoli quoted from the NRA in his article, he conveniently left out

GMP Third-Quarter Profit Falls on Investment-Banking Fees

By Doug Alex
Nov. 6 (PR Newswire)

GMP Capital Inc., Canada's second-biggest independent brokerage by assets, said third-quarter net income fell 82 percent as investment-banking fees fell.

Profit for the period ended Sept. 30 fell to C\$6.9 million (\$5.9 million), the company said in a Canada NewsWire statement today.

GMP has been hurt by a global credit crisis that has eroded equity financings and mergers in Canada during the quarter. The firm last month reduced its mortgage portfolio for a second time in three months, and cut 37 jobs to respond to the downturn.

GMP units fell 82 cents, or 14 percent, to C\$4.92 yesterday in Toronto Stock Exchange trading.

The firm managed three Canadian stock sales in the quarter worth \$265.1 million, an 18 percent drop from a year earlier. The company handled six takeovers that closed in the quarter worth \$1.59 billion, down from \$5.1 billion a year earlier, according to Bloomberg data.

\$779,555,724

Candidates for education secretary: Where's LAUSD's Brewer?

10:08 AM, December 4, 2008

The folks at the Thomas Fordham Institute are handicapping President-elect Barack Obama's pick for secretary of Education. If they're right, it looks like Obama might be looking for a big-city schools chief, someone like Arne Duncan of Chicago or Joel Klein of New York.

Notice who's missing from that list?

That's right -- of the nation's Big Three school superintendents, only David L. Brewer of Los Angeles is NOT considered to be in the running for the Cabinet post.

In some ways, Brewer might seem the perfect pick. After all, he has a home in Virginia, just across the Potomac from Washington. As a retired Navy vice admiral, he knows the federal bureaucracy. And, well, unlike Duncan or Klein, he might soon be available.

Not surprisingly, Duncan -- who's not only from Obama's hometown but regularly plays basketball with the incoming general in chief -- leads the list. Most interesting addition: Caroline Kennedy. Most of the rest are governors, including Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Tim Kaine of Virginia. For the entire list, with odds, check out Fordham's Flypaper [here](#).

—Mitchell Landis

Downstate schools applying to academies; Info session to explain process

By Mitchell Landis, Ivy-Eisenberg, Delaware State News
DOVER — A Thomas More Academy student Gardea T.J. Christian of Dover has been named a senior in high school.

Christian is a member of the Delaware Youth Philanthropy Board and is a member of the Delaware Youth Philanthropy Board, where he tutors and does community

Christian added to his resume,

Christian was honored

Christian was named a senior in high school.

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Teen and Education

Thursday, September 04, 2008

By MIRANDA CHRISTENSEN, AIMEE HADLEY, COLTON QUEZADA and MELISSA WALKER

This year, we have a colossal fifth-grade class at Stapleton School. Thanks to Mrs. Jami Crook, our new teacher, we can divide all 38 students into two classes of 19 students each. The fifth-grade students work in cooperative groups, with names that each group made up, such as "The Mighty Marshmallows," "The Drawing Turtles" and "The Hot Wings." Every group has a sticker book, and when the group earns 25 stickers they go to the "Bama Basket," where they can pick out prizes.

The fifth-grade students have been reading interesting stories. They just finished reading "Frindle," an exciting tale of a boy who made up a new word that was added to the dictionary. Fifth-graders have also been reading stories from their new reading series, including "Helen Keller" and "Thunder Rose." Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Crook want to give special thanks to all of the Stapleton School staff for going out of their way to help their big class.

First-grade students have gotten off to a great start this year. Mrs. Clark's and Mrs. Powell's first-graders have been learning about animals and their habitats. They are learning about pets that they have at home, and they have really been having fun learning about animals that live in the wild.

First-grade students are working on adjective collages on their SmartBoards. The students write their names on the board and describe themselves. The teachers report that the first-grade students have also been reading, reading, reading. The students are working very hard to show that they are responsible. The first-grade teachers and students would like to say thank you to Claire Morton's grandmother, Jimmie Morton, for helping make copies for both teachers. Ms. Morton is a terrific volunteer, helping the first-grade classes with all their supplies and schoolwork.

During the next few weeks, all students will have the opportunity to sell books to people they know, to raise money for our school for future projects. The top three sellers will get to do the "money jump" and earn money. The books can be used in area businesses from Bay Minette to Ocean Beach and cost \$12 each.

On Aug. 29, students, staff, and teachers gathered in the courtyard to say good-bye to Mrs. Alice Jackson, our beloved bookkeeper, after 28 years of dedicated service. Although she meticulously took care of the books, she also took care of countless other tasks at our school. She will be greatly missed. She was presented with a beautiful scrapbook that contained photos and special wishes from every student. The PTO treated everyone to delicious cake. Although everyone is sad to see her leave her position, we are happy that she will be able to relax and spend more time with her family.

Report on the New York Business First of Business by Robert K. Cooper The Albany Business review

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Economic report offers good news, but raises some serious concerns [11/28/2008]

Economic times demand more financial education [11/07/2008]

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Ivy Tech president joins education panel [11/03/2008]

Kaiser Family Foundation to start non-profit news service [10/29/2008]

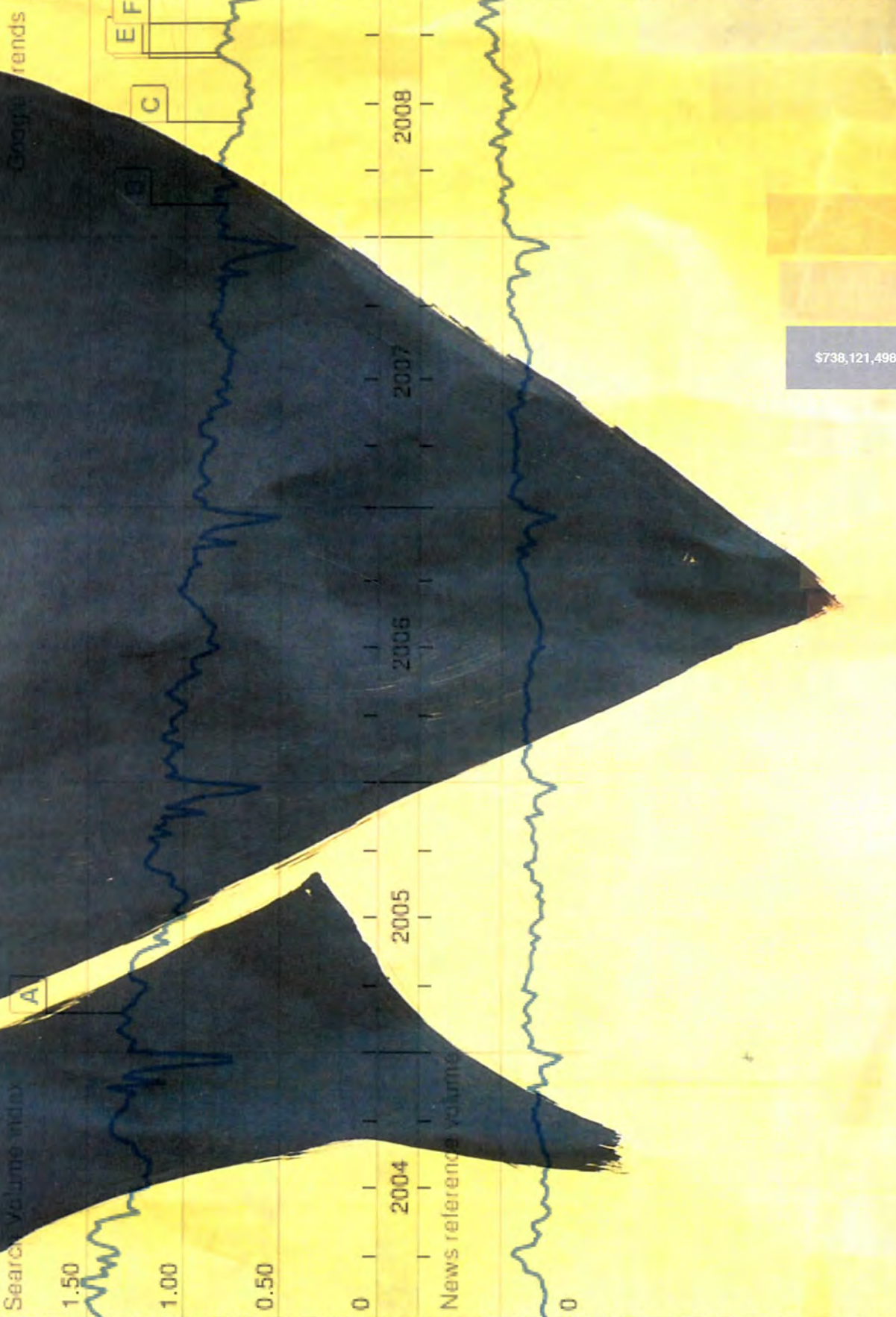
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New York high schools lag behind several states when it comes to educating students who go on to college.

The likelihood of a New York high school freshman enrolling in college by age 19 is 44 percent, according to a new report by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education.

Twenty-one states have a greater likelihood of seeing their students enroll in college during their teens. The nation's top performing schools—Massachusetts, New Jersey, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota see 54 percent or more of their freshmen enroll in higher education by 19.

"I think it's a real concern," said Jon Finner, vice president of the National Center and professor at the University of Pennsylvania.



\$738,121,498

Dems try to spur oil exploration on available land

Staff and agencies
17 July, 2008

By ANDREW TAYLOR, Associated Press Writer 1 minute ago

WASHINGTON - Seeking to blunt GOP efforts to permit oil exploration off Atlantic and Pacific coasts, House Democrats are pushing legislation they say would spur oil drilling on already available lands in Alaska, the West and the western Gulf of Mexico.

On the eve of the vote, the Interior Department issued a nearly new lease in Alaska's National Petroleum Reserve, known as NPR-1. The Democratic bill would require a more active Interior Department leasing program on the reserve, which is located to the west of the oil-limits Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, the subject of a long-standing battle between environmentalists and the oil lobby.

The oil lease proposal is an effort by Democrats to counter a push by congressional Republicans to lift a long-standing drilling ban on most offshore U.S. waters.

Democrats are scrambling to appear pro-drilling — hence the "Drill Act" title for Thursday's bill — even as their leaders appear dead set against reversing the long-standing drilling bans along the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

"The administration's responsibility was to protect the American people from this kind of gouging, and they did nothing," said Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn. "So today they're trying to deflect the very legitimate criticism of, 'What did you do on the watch?'"

Republicans hope to use the bill as a vehicle for votes on further offshore exploration, among other pro-energy production measures.

Stocks surge as oil prices tumble

Staff and agencies
02 September, 2008

By TIM PARADIS, AP Business Writer 2 minutes ago

NEW YORK - Stocks are marching higher in early trading as oil prices plunge on reports that the Gulf Coast and its oil facilities have been spared heavy damage from Hurricane Gustav.

The market's optimism is also being boosted by news that Korea Development Bank is in talks about taking part in a possible acquisition of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

Heating oil costs less than last year
But fall doesn't keep up with crude's drop

By Erin Ailworth

Globe Staff / December 5, 2008

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The price of heating oil has plummeted more than 44 percent since July, a drop so dramatic that in Massachusetts heating oil is now about 60 cents less per gallon than it was a year ago.

Still, heating oil prices have fallen more slowly than the price of crude oil, which is used to make heating oil, gasoline, and diesel fuel. Yesterday, crude dropped again, closing at \$43.67 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange, nearly 70 percent below its July peak of \$145.29.

One analyst says the disparity can be partly attributed to a decreased demand for gas due to the recession. Neil Gamson, an economist with the Energy Information Administration, the statistical arm of the federal energy department, said refiners are trying to use heating oil to make up for diminishing gas profits.

"This is the heating oil season, so there's demand for that," Gamson said. "And, in the case of gasoline, it's not the driving season."

Michael Ferrante, president of the Massachusetts Oilheat Council, a trade group,

Oil price sets stage for mergers

BRAWN MCCARTHY

GLOBAL ENERGY REPORTER

December 5, 2008

OTTAWA — As getting to be cheaper to drill for oil in industry boardrooms and the world's burning oil.

With crude oil prices plunging dramatically, oil companies have seen their share prices hit historic low levels, providing a target for cash-rich predators that are eager to boost their reserves.

"We expect a lot of mergers and acquisitions in the next 12 months," Fadel Gheit, analyst with New York-based Oppenheimer & Co. Inc., said in an interview. "Historically, after every oil-price cycle, within six to 12 months we end up with major industry consolidation."

Crude prices continued their four-month plummet yesterday, dropping more than 7 per cent — or \$3.12 (U.S.) a barrel to \$43.67 on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Many forecasters believe oil prices could fall further still — perhaps as low as \$30 a barrel — as demand falls in the face of a slumping global economy.

Falling prices — combined with stubbornly high costs — have led several companies to cancel or postpone both production and upgrading projects in Alberta's oil sands. Norway's StatoilHydro ASA became the latest to do so, announcing yesterday that it would not proceed with a proposed \$4-billion (Canadian) upgrader, citing "prohibitive construction costs."

Mr. Gheit said the industry is suffering a serious hangover from the boom times of just four months ago, and will need a major consolidation to adjust to the low price environment, which could last for several years, depending on the depths and duration of the global recession.

The last major price slump, in 1998, set the stage for mergers between Exxon and Mobil Oil, and BP and Amoco Petroleum, he noted.

After five years of rising prices that peaked at \$147 (U.S.) a barrel this summer, the world's largest oil companies — including Exxon Mobil Corp., Royal Dutch Shell PLC, BP PLC, and Chevron Corp. — remain flush with cash.

That group of so-called "supermajors" is estimated to have a collective war chest of \$200 billion.

At the same time, those giants have found it costly to add to their reserves, as producing countries increasingly declare their oil fields off-limits to international oil companies.

As a result, the majors have increasingly focused on unconventional areas like the oil sands or offshore in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic Ocean.

In a recent research report, Credit Suisse energy analyst Mark Flannery noted that the major international companies — which control just 10 per cent of the world's reserves — face serious challenges in replacing those reserves or adding to them.

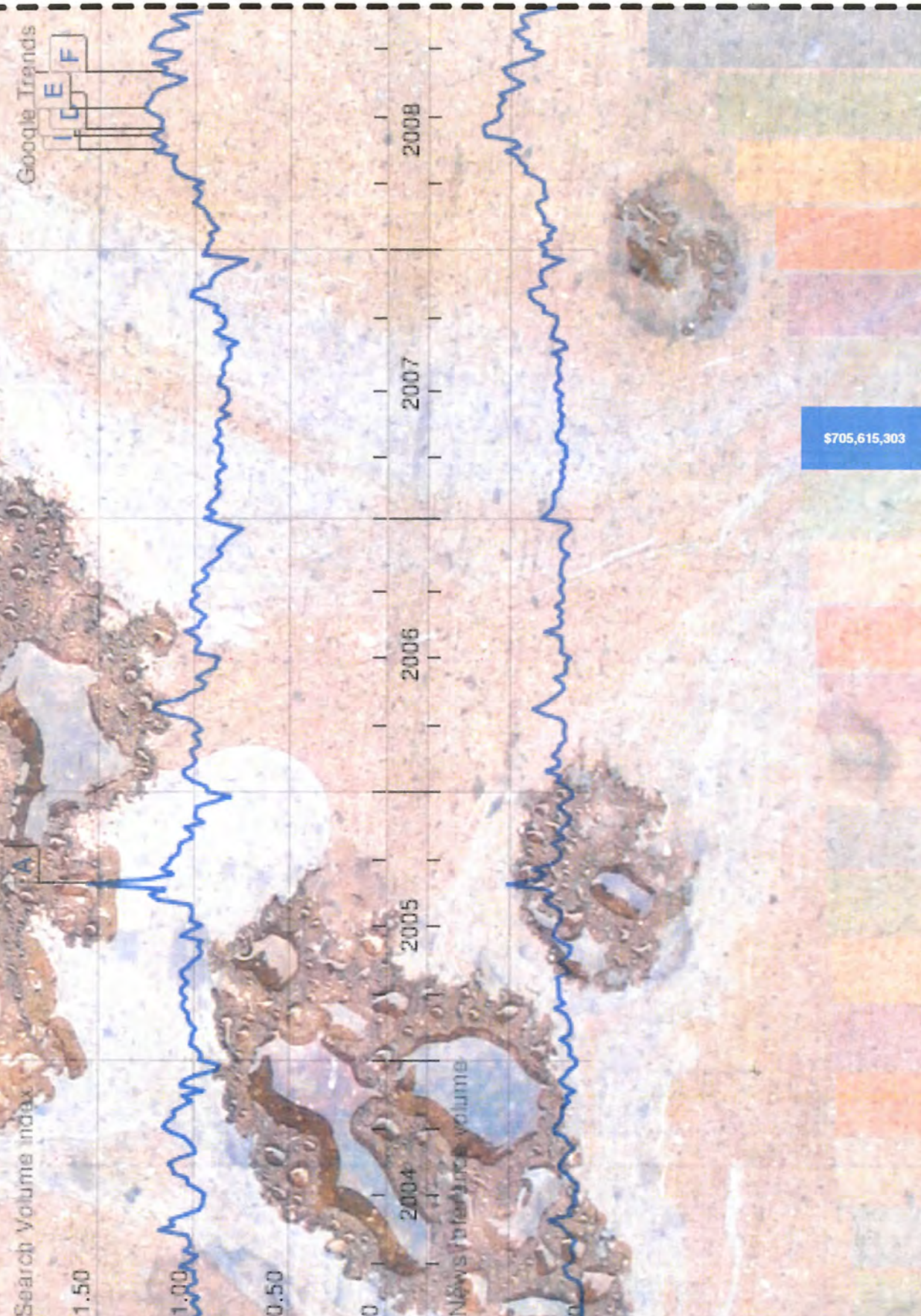
"Big Oil has a growth problem for sure but is extremely well capitalized and we now see an M&A window opening," Mr. Flannery wrote.

Though oil sands production is high cost, the sector remains attractive to major international companies because of the long life span of the reserves, and the relative absence of political and exploration risk, said Martin Molyneaux, analyst at FirstEnergy Capital Corp. in Calgary.

In the United States, independent producers, including Anadarko Petroleum Corp. (down more than 50 per cent this year), Devon Energy Corp. (down 25 per cent), and Marathon Oil Corp. (off 65 per cent), are all considered targets for the supermajors.

In Canada, "everybody is for sale," Mr. Molyneaux said.

He said companies are now doing end-of-year engineering work that will detail 2008 costs in adding new reserves. That information will allow them to determine whether it is cheaper to buy or drill, and would indicate a potential acquirer how a company stacks up in a key stock-market metric, the per-share cost of adding reserves.



Fannie, Freddie rescue binds taxpayers to housing market.
The final tab may exceed that of the savings-and-loan bailout, depending on the depth of the housing slump.

By Mark Trumbull | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor
from the September 9, 2008 edition
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newsletters RSS
Daily podcast | 09.08.08

Pat Murphy talks with
Monitor staff writer Mark Trumbull about the federal government's financial
rescue of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.
Subscribe iTunes | More Audio
The US Treasury is poised to commit large sums – perhaps exceeding \$100
billion – in its rescue of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but the real cost to
American taxpayers won't be known for years.

The tab will depend on how Washington runs these mortgage giants and how
the housing market and economy perform.

A wide range of outcomes is possible, because the size of Fannie and Freddie is
so large. With a \$5 trillion book of home loans that they own, or have guaran-
teed, fractional changes in foreclosure rates can translate into tens of billions
very quickly.

In a worst case, the cost could run well above the roughly \$125 billion that
taxpayers spent in the early 1990s to insure depositors in failed savings-and-loan
institutions, some mortgage-market experts say.

In other scenarios the short-term infusion of cash might ultimately be recouped
with little or no net cost to taxpayers.

What's clear is that every US taxpayer is now tethered directly to the troubled
housing market. And the stakes are much higher than the \$30 billion federal
intervention to stave off bankruptcy at Bear Stearns earlier this year.

"This is Bear Stearns times 100 or Bear Stearns times 1,000," says Brian Battle,
a vice president at Performance Trust Capital Partners, an investment firm in
Chicago. How much taxpayers lose is "100 percent correlated" with the depth of
the housing slump, he adds.

The more home prices fall, the higher foreclosure rates will become and the
more losses will pile up at Fannie and Freddie. The less home prices fall, the
less that any lender will lose when a loan defaults and the property is resold.

Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are known as government-sponsored enterprises
(GSEs), because they were chartered by Congress to create a more stable
mortgage market. Over the past year, they have been fulfilling that mission,
guaranteeing home loans or buying them outright. Amid a sharp decline in real
estate prices and prices, investors have been willing to fund the so-called
"conforming" home loans that carry a Fannie or Freddie imprimatur. That has
helped keep mortgages relatively available and affordable.

But even though the GSEs were not conduits for the worst subprime lending,
they are being hit by loan defaults, with Fannie and Freddie posting a combined
second-quarter loss of \$3 billion.

Then, capital, the reserves available to cover future losses and continue funding
new loans, fell to the point where the US Treasury Department intervened.

That's followed a string of other federal actions in recent months. The Federal
Reserve has loaned money to investment banks in addition to the \$30 billion in
credit it extended to facilitate the buyout of Bear Stearns by JPMorgan Chase.

Bank failures, after a long period of quiet, are rising. The Treasury's Federal
Deposit Insurance Corp. could run through its insurance fund this year and may
need additional help from the Treasury to protect insured depositors.

Now the Treasury is becoming an equity investor in Fannie and Freddie and a
buyer of their mortgage-backed bonds.

The move is a bid to help restore calm to credit markets, possibly lowering the
cost of mortgages and stimulating, helping the housing market recover. The
more successful the effort, the less it will cost taxpayers.

Florida's Housing Market for 4Q 2007: Sales Activity Remained Soft

ORLANDO, Fla., Feb. 14 /PRNewswire/ -- In fourth quarter 2007,
Florida's housing sector continued to show high inventory levels of homes
for sale in many markets, median prices edging down and sales activity
levels that reflect the impact of tighter lending standards and
on-the-fence buyers.

Statewide, sales of single-family existing homes totaled 26,130 during
the three-month period, a decrease of 31 percent compared to 37,879 homes
sold during the same time a year earlier, according to the Florida
Association of Realtors(R) (FAR).

The statewide existing-home median sales price was \$216,000 in the
fourth quarter; a year ago, it was \$235,000 for an increase of 10 percent.
In 2002, the fourth-quarter statewide median sales price was \$142,600,
which reflects an increase of about 51.6 percent over the five-year period.
The median is a typical market price where half the homes sold for more,
half for less.

Sales activity is expected to remain soft through the first half of the
year despite a generational low in mortgage interest rates, according to
the National Association of Realtors(R) (NAR) latest market outlook.
"The sold information was only half of what it should have been last year
given the demographics of a growing population and sustained job growth, so
there clearly is a pent-up demand from buyers who are on the sidelines,"
said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "Existing-home sales have moved
narrowly since last September, but when the full impact of higher loan
limits for conventional mortgages begins to register on the market, there
is likely to be a notable rise in home sales and prices."

Continuing low mortgage rates remain another positive influence on the
housing market. According to Freddie Mac, the national commitment rate for
a 30-year conventional fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.23 percent in fourth
quarter 2007; one year earlier, it averaged 6.25 percent.

Looking to Florida's existing condominium market, sales of existing
condos also decreased during the quarter, with a total of 7,923 condos sold
statewide compared to 10,820 in fourth quarter 2006 for a 27 percent
decline, according to FAR. The statewide median sales price for condos for
the three-month period was \$169,600; a year earlier, it was \$205,800 for an
8 percent decrease.

Among the state's larger markets, the Sarasota-Bradenton metropolitan
statistical area (MSA) reported 1,676 existing homes sold for the quarter
compared to 1,959 homes sold a year earlier for a decrease of 14 percent.
The market's existing-home median sales price was \$195,100; a year earlier,
it was \$282,500 for an 8 percent decline. A total of 664 existing condos
sold in the market over the three-month period, up 1 percent from fourth
quarter 2006, while the existing-condo median price decreased 6 percent to
\$230,500.

Debbie Roth, president of the Manatee Association of Realtors and a
broker/associate at RoseBay Real Estate Inc., says, "We're seeing a lot of
government financing like the FHA for home loans, and having the loan
limits increase will be a boost for the market. Mortgage rates are still
very favorable; people should take advantage of the rates and the current
inventory. It truly is a great time to buy, and owning your home is one of
the best ways to build financial security. And Bradenton and Manatee
County area is a wonderful location to enjoy beautiful beaches and other
amenities of the Florida lifestyle."

Fort Walton Beach is one of the smaller markets in the state,
reporting that 490 homes changed hands in the fourth quarter, a decrease of
2 percent compared to 502 homes sold a year earlier. Over the same period,
the market's existing-home median home price was \$197,900; a year earlier,
it was \$224,200 for a 12 percent decline. A total of 134 existing condos
sold in the Fort Walton Beach MSA during the quarter, an increase of 15
percent from the previous year, while the existing-condo median price
decreased 16 percent to \$364,300.

Other areas are at least comparable to last year's activity and
volume in some parts, which makes us optimistic that the housing market
has started to stabilize and may in fact be starting to improve slightly,
says Cliff Chaplin, president of the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors

\$703,817,220

Boy could be...
collected P...

OMC has been shown that, may be
point as 3 base pairs

Lincoln College of Health Sciences, 1000 West 10th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502

Police officers told me that the women wouldn't follow their rules if they can't afford to pay for the services.

If the fetus is confirmed Wednesday, it will be the third child

Nebraska is the only one in the country that lets caregivers leave a loved one at a state-licensed hospital without fear of prosecution for the abandonment.

Gov. Dave Heineman called a news conference for later Wednesday and said he would address the safe-haven law. His spokeswoman would not confirm whether Heineman would be calling a special session to change the law.

A majority of state senators have agreed to revise the law so that only infants up to 3 days old can be dropped off.

Florida's House of Representatives for 40 2007: Speaker's Office Remained Soft

Orlando, Feb. 14 /PRNewswire/—The Florida Housing Center (FHC) reports that Florida's housing sector continued to report the lowest levels of homes for sale in many markets, median prices edged down, and states activity levels just reflect the impact of tighter lending standards on off-market and on-the-fence buyers.

Statewide, sales of single-family existing homes totaled 26,130 during the three-month period, a decrease of 31 percent compared to 37,879 homes sold during the same time a year earlier, according to the Florida Association of Realtors® (FAR).

The statewide existing-home median sales price was \$216,000 in the fourth quarter; a year ago, it was \$238,800 for a decrease of 10 percent. In 2002, the fourth-quarter statewide median sales price was \$142,800, which reflects an increase of 53.0 or 51.9 percent over the five-year period. The median is a typical market price, where half the homes sold for more, half for less.

Soft activity is expected to remain soft through the first half of the year, due to a generational low in mortgage interest rates, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR) latest market outlook. Threshold formation was only half of what it should have been last year given the demographics of a growing population and sustained job growth, so there clearly is a pent-up demand from buyers who are on the sidelines," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "Existing-home sales have moved narrowly since last September, but when the full impact of higher loan limits for conventional mortgages begins to register on the market, there is likely to be a notable rise in home sales and prices."

Continuing low mortgage rates remain another positive influence on the housing market. According to Freddie Mac, the national commitment rate for a 30-year conventional fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.23 percent in fourth quarter 2007; one year earlier, it averaged 6.25 percent.

Looking to Florida's existing condominium market, sales of existing condos also decreased during the quarter, with a total of 7,923 condos sold statewide compared to 10,820 in fourth quarter 2006 for a 27 percent decline, according to FAR. The statewide median sales price for condos for the three-month period was \$189,600; a year earlier, it was \$205,800 for an 8 percent decrease.

Among the state's larger markets, the Sarasota-Bradenton metropolitan statistical area (MSA) reported 1,676 existing homes sold in the quarter compared to 1,959 homes sold a year earlier for a decrease of 14 percent. The market's existing-home median sales price was \$259,100; a year earlier, it was \$282,300 for an 8 percent decline. A total of 661 existing condos sold in the market over the three-month period, up 1 percent from fourth

Florida's Housing Market for 4Q 2007: Sales Activity Remained Soft

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The statewide existing-home median sales price was \$216,000 in the fourth quarter; a year ago, it was \$239,800 for a decrease of 10 percent. In 2002, the fourth-quarter statewide median sales price was \$142,600, which reflects an increase of about 51.5 percent over the five-year period. The median is a typical market price where half the homes sold for more, half for less.

Sales activity is expected to remain soft through the first half of the year despite a generational low in mortgage interest rates, according to the National Association of Realtors (NAR)'s latest market outlook. "Household formation was only half of what it should have been last year given the demographics of a growing population and sustained job growth, so there clearly is a pent-up demand from buyers who are on the sidelines," said NAR Chief Economist Lawrence Yun. "Existing-home sales have moved narrowly since last September, but when the full impact of higher loan limits for conventional mortgages begins to register on the market, there is likely to be a notable rise in home sales and prices."

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Looking to Florida's existing condominium market, sales of existing condos also decreased during the quarter, with a total of 1,926 condos sold statewide compared to 10,820 in fourth quarter 2005 for a 27 percent decline, according to FAR. The statewide median sales price for condos for the three-month period was \$189,600; a year earlier, it was \$205,800 for an 8 percent decrease.

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Debbie Roth, president of the Manatee Association of Realtors and a broker-associate at RoseBay Real Estate Inc., says, "We're seeing a lot of government financing like the FHA for home loans, and having the loan limits increase will be a boost for the market. Mortgage rates are still very favorable; people should take advantage of the rates and the current inventory. It truly is a great time to buy, and owning your home is one of the best ways to build financial security. And Bradenton and the Manatee County area is a wonderful location to enjoy beautiful beaches and other amenities of the Florida lifestyle."

The Fort Walton Beach MSA, one of the smaller markets in the state, reported that 490 homes changed hands in the fourth quarter, a decrease of 2 percent compared to 502 homes sold a year earlier. Over the same period, the market's existing-home median home price was \$197,900; a year earlier, it was \$224,200 for a 12 percent decline. A total of 134 existing condos sold in the Fort Walton Beach MSA during the quarter, an increase of 15 percent from the previous year, while the existing-condo median price decreased 16 percent to \$364,300.

"Sales in our area are at least comparable to last year's activity, and are better in some parts, which makes us optimistic that the housing market has started to stabilize and may in fact be starting to improve slightly," says Cliff Chaplin, president of the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors.



Cigarette Manufacturing in China - companiesandmarkets.com adds new report

The Cigarette Manufacturing Industry in China (China Industry Code - 1620) comprises establishments primarily engaged in cigarette, cigar and cigarette filter manufacturing. Products manufactured include Virginia-type cigarettes, blend-type cigarettes, cigars and filter rods. The industry does not include manufacturing fiber tows for cigarettes.

Report Contents

The Key Statistics chapter provides the key indicators for the industry for at least the last three years. The statistics included are industry revenue, industry gross product, employment, establishments, exports, imports, domestic demand and total wages.

The Market Characteristics chapter covers the following: Market Size, Linkages, Demand Determinants, Domestic and International Markets, Basis of Competition and Life Cycle. The Market Size section gives the size of the domestic market as well as the size of the export market. The Linkages section lists the industry's major supplier and major customer industries. The Demand Determinants section lists the key factors which are likely to cause demand to rise or fall. The Domestic and International Markets section defines the market for the products and services of the industry. This section provides the size of the domestic market and the proportion accounted for by imports and exports and trends in the levels of imports and exports. The Basis of Competition section outlines the key types of competition between firms within the industry as well as highlighting competition from substitute products in alternative industries. The Life Cycle section provides an analysis of which stage of development the industry is at.

The Segmentation chapter covers the following: Products and Service Segmentation, Major Market Segments, Industry Concentration and Geographic Spread. The Products and Service Segmentation section details the key products and/or services provided by this industry, highlighting the most important where possible to demonstrate which have a more significant influence over industry results as a whole. The Major Market Segments section details the key client industries and/or groups as well as giving an indication as to which of these are the most important to the industry. The Industry Concentration section provides an indicator of how much industry revenue is accounted for by the top four players. The Geographic Spread section provides a guide to the regional share of industry revenue/gross product.

The Industry Conditions chapter covers the following: Barriers to Entry, Innovation, Industry Assistance, Regulation and Deregulation, Cost Structure, Capital and Labor Intensity, Technology and Systems, Industry Volatility and Globalization. The Barriers to Entry section outlines factors that can prevent a new company from entering this industry and also gives an indication of the extent to which this occurs. The Taxation section details all kinds of taxation that are specific or are particularly important to this industry, including taxation concessions. The Industry Assistance section refers to any government and/or other measures designed to improve the performance of this industry. The Regulation and Deregulation section details any applicable regulation and/or deregulation to this industry. The Cost Structure section details the average costs for a company operating in this industry as a percentage of total revenue. The Capital and Labor Intensity section provides a guide to the amount of capital used in production/providing a service compared to the amount of labor in the total mix of inputs. The Technology and Systems section acknowledges the latest technology and/or systems available to this industry within the country. Technology refers to machinery and equipment and systems refers to methods of production that enable better and more efficient production. The Industry Volatility section refers to the year on year fluctuations which occur in industry output. The Globalization section gives an indication of the extent to which the industry is global based on factors such as the level of foreign ownership, the proportion of output accounted for by foreign operators and the volume of production conducted in other countries.

The Performance chapter provides an analysis of both the industry's Current Performance and Historical Performance. The Current Performance section provides the analysis for the industry over the past five years with the performance indicators discussed. The Historical Performance section discusses previously important events in the development of the industry.

The Key Competitors chapter lists the major players in the industry as well as an analysis of each major player's activities in the industry. Market share information is included where possible.

AMD to Spin Off Manufacturing

Advanced Micro Devices Inc. says it will spin off manufacturing operations, including those in Austin, to a new joint venture, backed by as much as \$6 billion from Abu Dhabi investors.

Sunnyvale, Calif.-based AMD (NYSE: AMD) said Foundry Co. will take over AMD's existing manufacturing as well as pursue plans for a new factory in New York state and upgrade another one in Dresden, Germany.

Advanced Technology Investment Co. of Abu Dhabi is making a \$700 million payment to AMD for part of Foundry Co. Mubadala Development Co., also of Abu Dhabi, is making a \$314 million investment in AMD that boosts its stake in the company to 19.4 percent.

Advanced Technology Investment Co. has also agreed to kick in at least \$3.6 billion and up to \$6 billion to the new venture.

AMD is transferring about \$1.2 billion from its balance sheet to the new company's, as well.

With about 2,500 employees in Austin, AMD is one of the largest corporate employers in the region. The company employs a global workforce of about 15,500. A spokesman for AMD says about 150 local employees will join Foundry as part of the deal. He says there are no immediate plans for layoffs, however "it is possible as the separation occurs that some positions would be impacted." If there are cuts, the figure would be small, he adds.

AMD's stock rose more than 16 percent Tuesday morning to \$4.91 after the spinoff announcement. The stock has steadily fallen from a 52-week high of \$14.73 last October.

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READER COMMENTS

(1) Comments
Adolfo Gutierrez November 21, 2008 11:46AM EST
I understand the need for jobs in Upstate NY and the high hopes that NYS has in AMD and The Foundry Co venture, yet there are important considerations that need to be considered amidst hype and hope.

Essentially NY needs to understand that the The Foundry Co is a startup, with no track record, no established base of technology base (does not own a widely accepted platform, process, or its related IP bundle); that has over one-third of AMD The Foundry Co which in turn has surrendered over 82% of the CPU business to Intel; that AMD is not coming (stays in Silicon Valley and elsewhere); that this "startup" carries over \$1.2 billion in debt inherited from AMD The Parent; that The Foundry Co is attempting an incredible complex business model spanning operations on three continents and 4 time zones; that competes against a company (TSMC) that has over 20 very successful years in business, currently controlling over 70% of the foundry for hire business space (which they pioneered), that is ahead of AMD (and IBM) in process development for not less than 15 months, and that is led by a world renowned management team inspired by the legendary Mr. M. Chang.

Upstate NY needs to also understand that The Foundry Co has been created to carry an ENORMOUS amount of risk (to the point that resembles a sacrificial outlet), including technology risk (betting its hopes on 32 and 22 nm, having failed to turn a profit at 65 nm and still uncertain at 45 nm); that has insufficient working capital (not even enough to pay for a new state of the art fab); that has an enormous burn rate and carries huge business risk (only one small and shrinking customer, Hewlett-Packard Design Co); that has an inexperienced management team in the business of building and in developing a broadly accepted platform technology; that also has a poor track record, legacy of its poorly performing parent company, AMD, featuring 8 consecutive quarters of straight losses (and a 10th quarter marginally profitable through divestiture of non-depreciated assets) and that has had a declining relative market share for most of the last 10 years.

Upstate NY also needs to understand that AMD The Foundry Co is a startup business loaded with massive debt (\$1.2 Billion); that answers to not less than 10 heavily invested masters (many AMD shareholders, Dresden (Germany), U.A.E. and now Malta (New York State); and that until recently was going



on

ons take note: organizations planning process, services or 6 to 18 percent

the bid, adding benefits arena - can e-minute workers, retirees

care system: along the entire costs," said Michael efficient ways to achieve competitive bid.

Bid Controls Costs and

ome the single largest expense National Coalition on Health eased by 6.1 percent in 2007 - employment-based health nt, compared to cumulative

while bidding stabilized or many employee benefits In an economy where makers - are under government and they are at odds with employees and status quo.

ing The Lab(TM), the only database updated with plans in real time, the study also revealed the following: American companies do not regularly conduct fact-based plan benchmarking because, until recently, no central ated plan comparison was available. Instead, they have relied to consultant-conducted surveys which, because of the latency the nature of surveys, could be inaccurate or misleading. For one manufacturer, using an automated system reduced health care es alone by \$4 million in just 6 months.

s that are put out to bid are generally 16 to 18 percent less an those that are renewed, the plan deductibles remain the same. e, according to The Lab(TM), 2008 PPO family in-network deduct- both RFPs as well as renewed plans are \$600 per family.

anies that take their insurance policies out to competitive bid often see of dollars in cost savings without reductions in coverage or increases in bles. For example, a Fortune 500 retailer saved \$1.3 million in insurance ums and commissions in just 45 days.

sed on a market analysis of 52-week highs/lows, those companies that take plans to bid tend to be higher-performing than those that simply renew their employee plans.

idding seems to alleviate the dilemma of cutting costs while trying to preserve employee quality of life. I would think it incumbent on any company to put their plans out to bid," added Byers.

How Companies Can Control Costs NOW

Conducting a simple health care and health and welfare consulting spend audit and leveraging a service such as HighRoads can be a good first step for companies interested in controlling costs. Initial analysis can be done using The Lab(TM), a live, real-time data repository that includes plan and cost details for thousands of plans covering millions of lives. Information on The Lab(TM) can be found at www.thehrlab.com.

arms HR teams to negotiate better pricing and map benefits plans more e needs of their employees with unprecedented access to peers' plans and costs. With this knowledge, companies can then ated Procurement Service to take plans out to competitive comparisons from any of HighRoads' 700 affiliated health vendors.

on how to initiate a HighRoads health care and consulting The Lab immediately to review your plans and start your nsibility program, please visit www.highroads.com

Daschle Launches Push by LAURA MECKLER

WASHINGTON -- Former Sen. Tom Daschle, a leading voice in health-care policy in the Obama administration, is launching a comprehensive health-care plan.

In a speech to be delivered Friday in Denver, president-elect made health-care reform a top priority, and I am here to tell you that his commitment remains strong and focused."

Associated Press

Former Sen. Tom Daschle, shown at the top, wants Americans to brainstorm health-care reform over the next few months. Mr. Daschle will emphasize the importance of the economic crisis, noting that rising health-care costs for businesses and must be addressed. He will also set timetables for action on health care.

Mr. Daschle, who Obama transition team member Health and Human Services, will announce a series of house parties to brainstorm over the next few months. He will promise to draft a health-care plan generated to President-elect Obama.

The parties are part of a series of tools from the president-elect. "What's next for our health care?" 2008 Colorado Health Care Summit (D., Colo.).

Mr. Daschle's comments will be the first public statement on health care since Election Day. He will emphasize that the health-care system must include expanding insurance coverage, reducing costs and improving quality.

"There is no question that the economic health of this country is directly tied to our ability to reform our health-care system," Mr. Daschle will say in his prepared remarks. The former Senate majority leader will be speaking as part of the Obama health-care transition team, because his nomination to head the team has not yet been announced.

During the campaign, Mr. Obama called for a national insurance marketplace where consumers can buy health-care coverage from private companies or from a new government-run plan, with subsidies to be provided to people based on their income levels. He suggested that large companies be required to offer insurance or pay into a fund, and proposed tax credits to entice small businesses to offer workers insurance. His plan also proposed a variety of ideas to improve health-care quality and reduce costs.

But many details have yet to be filled in, and congressional Democrats are working on those issues now. In the meantime, Mr. Daschle will say the Obama administration wants input from supporters -- as a way of getting average Americans to feel connected to the process and invested in its success. At some point, the administration will need to mobilize supporters to lobby Congress or otherwise build support for a plan.

The Obama team accumulated millions of email addresses in the last two years and used this network to mobilize supporters and raise money throughout the campaign.

Already, the Obama transition office has posted two health-care videos on its Web site, www.change.gov, and it is soliciting comments and ideas from people on the site. So far, it has received more than 10,000 comments, according to Mr. Daschle's prepared remarks. Those who want to host health-care parties are encouraged to sign up on the site.



Cop 'not wearing bullet-proof vest'

16 July 2008, 11:52

Related Articles

'Gunman' kills Cape Town cop

Cop gunned down in shoot-out

By Lindsay Dentlinger and Lavern de Vries

Cape Town police Inspector Lukas Nel, 35, was not wearing a bullet-proof vest when he was shot dead while on regular police patrol, the police confirmed on Wednesday.

Lukas died from bullet wounds sustained in a shoot-out with a suspected robber in Tamboerskloof shortly before 4am on Tuesday.

Police spokesperson Captain Randall Stoffels said on Wednesday that it was not known why Nel had not been wearing the vest, but he had definitely had one issued to him.

He would also have been expected to be wearing one during patrol on Monday morning.

His partner, who jumped out of their vehicle to pursue the suspect on foot, had been wearing a vest, Stoffels said.

Nel's autopsy will be carried out on Wednesday and only then will it be determined whether a bullet-proof vest would have saved his life.

A row has broken out between the SAPS and DA spokesperson on community safety Lennil Max, who claimed on Tuesday that the SAPS did not have enough vests for its force of about 20 000.

"Every member who goes on patrol should be protected and wear a vest, but contrary to what the police say, there are not enough bullet-proof vests," said Max.

Provincial police spokesperson Andrie Traut, however, dismissed the criticism, saying the SAPS was not battling a shortage of vests.

Stoffels said on Wednesday that some officers had personal vests issued to them, as had Nel, while others were issued one when they did operational work.

He could not say whether Nel's vest was in the car while he was on patrol.

Nel, a father of three, had been in the police force for 18 years and was the second officer in four days to be killed in the city.

The Cape Argus reported in November that a DA safety and security contingent had conducted a study, sampling 11 police stations out of the more than 1 300 in the country.

During their investigation they discovered that Western Cape police stations lacked basic necessities enjoyed by most other stations, including bullet-proof vests and other operational equipment.

Max told the Cape Argus he had continued visiting police stations and that his fears followed a visit to Piketberg station three weeks ago.

According to Max, police officers were usually issued with a standard police-issued firearm and vest when appointed.

"But sometimes there aren't enough vests and the members have to borrow each other's vests, but because there are also hygiene issues, some will go out on patrol without a vest."

The department of community safety's Makhaya Manie said Max's fears were "premature" because the police still needed to complete their investigation to determine which of the two bullets that hit Nel had killed him.

"If he (Max) has an audit of the shortages, it would be wise for him to send it to the police commissioner," he said.

A source who declined to be named said Nel had almost always worn a vest and the fact that he hadn't worn one on Tuesday was "strange".

A top policeman has been called in to investigate Scotland Yard's arrest of Damian Green, the Tory frontbencher caught in a leak scandal. Home Office leaks, the Metropolitan Police said today.

Mr Green, the Shadow Immigration Minister, was held and arrested for nine hours last Thursday after the earlier arrest of a junior Home Office official accused of repeated leaks.

His homes and offices, including in the Commons, were searched and his computer, phone and other communications equipment seized, which even involved the deployment of specialist counter-terrorist officers.

The Conservatives have since complained bitterly about the harsh treatment meted out to Mr Green and MPs from other parties have also expressed grave concerns about the decision to allow police to search Commons property.

EXPERT VIEW

Barring another moment of madness at the Met, this calamitous investigation will be dropped
Sean O'Neill, Crime and Security Editor
More

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In a statement this morning, Acting Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Sir Paul Stephenson said that Ian Johnston, Chief Constable of the British Transport Police, would lead the investigation.

"I am properly concerned about the issues being raised within the continuing efforts surrounding the ongoing investigation into the leaking of Government information," Mr Stephenson said.

"I have therefore appointed Ian Johnston, Chairman of the BTP Crime Committee and Chief Constable of the British Transport Police, to conduct an urgent review of the decisions, actions and handling of the investigation to date and to provide me with an interim report within 7 days and a final report within two weeks.

"In the meantime the investigation team will continue with the CPS to review progress and consider next steps.

Mr Johnston, 63, took over as head of the British Transport Police (BTP) in 2001 after retiring from the Met, where he had been the Assistant Commissioner.

The fact that the BTP, which police the railways, falls under the control of the Department of Transport and not the Home Office means that he is able to claim his full police pension plus a salary of around £200 000, making him Britain's best-paid policeman.

Here is the full text of a letter sent by the Metropolitan Police Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick to the home secretary answering a number of questions about the search of Damian Green's Commons office.

3rd December 2008

Dear Home Secretary,

I am writing in response to a series of questions raised by your officials which relate to the search of Damian Green MP's parliamentary office on Thursday 27th November 2008. The questions raised are set out below followed by the response of the MPS:

1. Was a warrant needed to search the Parliamentary office?

No.

Section 8 (1) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act as amended permits a Justice of the Peace to issue a warrant authorising a constable to enter and search premises where satisfied on application by a constable that there are reasonable grounds for believing:

a) That an indictable offence has been committed and;

b) There is material on the premises mentioned in subsection (1a) which is likely to be of substantial value to the investigation of the offence and;

c) The material is likely to be relevant evidence and;

d) It does not consist of or include items subject to legal privilege, excluded material or special procedure material and;

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Tristone Capital expands Houston Investment Banking team

CALGARY, Oct. 25 /PRNewswire/

Mr. Brian Williams has been appointed Managing Director, Investment Banking at Tristone Capital's Houston Office. He will be responsible for North American Energy Service Investment Banking.

Mr. Williams brings to Tristone over 8 years of experience in energy service investment banking, in both the US and Canada. Formerly, he was with Simmons & Company International, where he oversaw buy- and sell-side, public and private company M&A, as well as private and public equity financings. Mr. Williams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a Masters of Business Administration degree from Harvard Business School.

About Tristone: Tristone Capital is a global energy advisory firm that provides fully integrated Investment Banking, Acquisitions & Divestitures, and Global Equity Capital Markets services. Founded in 2000, Tristone has over 150 technical and financial experts throughout offices in the UK, Argentina, Canada and the United States. Tristone offers exclusively energy-focused expertise to exploration and production companies, oilfield services and midstream companies, government entities, royalty trusts, M&A and institutional investors worldwide. Tristone Capital is a Member of the

US Preventive Medicine Announces Investment Banking Team

DALLAS and NEW YORK, May 6 /PRNewswire/

U.S. Preventive Medicine (U.S. PM), the leader in prevention, today announced the company has selected its investment banking team, composed of Credit Suisse, Deutsche Bank, Merrill Lynch, UBS and Stanford Eagle to coordinate its long term capital strategy, mergers and acquisition efforts in the U.S. and internationally.

"The selection of some of the nation's best investment banks to manage our long term capitalization and M&A strategy is significant as we continue to align this company with the 'best of the best' in the global financial markets. As the first entity in the U.S. and internationally to offer a full continuum of geographically dispersed, comprehensive solutions for personalized medicine including preventive care, wellness and disease management, the addition of these leading financial advisors is very important," said Christopher Fey, Chairman and CEO of U.S. Preventive Medicine. "This is just one more sequential step in our planned growth of the business."

Fey said U.S. Preventive Medicine's expansion into personalized medicine is the next step in the company's plan to provide practical solutions at every point in the healthcare continuum both nationally and internationally.

Report: Citigroup to hand out pink slips

NEW YORK-AP

Citigroup is reportedly preparing to fire thousands from its worldwide investment-banking division.

According to The Wall Street Journal, the layoffs are part of a plan to cut about 10 percent of the staff of the 65,000-member investment-banking group.

The Journal, citing people familiar with the matter, says the fired employees could be notified as early as today.

The New York-based global bank, along with much of Wall Street, is in the throes of recovering from bad investments on mortgages and leveraged loans that cut billions of dollars from its portfolio.

It's not clear if the reported job cuts will be in addition to cuts announced by Citigroup in April. After reporting a 5.1-billion-dollar first-quarter loss, the bank said it was reducing its staff by 9,000, in addition to the 4,200 job cuts the bank announced late last year.

Investment banking: Mortgage woes catch up with JP Morgan

Andrew Clark in New York
The Guardian, Wednesday August 13 2008

A shudder passed through the banking industry yesterday when JP Morgan revealed that the credit crunch had forced it to take fresh write-downs of \$1.5bn (£790m) on mortgage-backed securities.

The disclosure caused a sell-off in investment banking shares on Wall Street as investors were reminded that the crisis gripping credit markets is far from over.

JP Morgan's shares slumped by 7.5%, Merrill Lynch slipped by almost 5% and Goldman Sachs, which was downgraded by an influential analyst, dropped 5.6%.

In a regulatory filing, JP Morgan said trading conditions in the mortgage market "substantially deteriorated" in July. It admitted: "The investment bank continues to be negatively affected by the disruption in the credit and mortgage markets, as well as by overall lower levels of liquidity and wider credit spreads."

JP Morgan has suffered less damage from the credit crunch than some of its rivals under chief executive Jamie Dimon. But its latest losses amount to a deterioration from write-offs of \$1.1bn in the first quarter of the year, welcomed what they called a "powerful precedent."

Barclays buying Lehman's North American investment banking and capital markets

Associated Press
Last updated: Wednesday, September 17th, 2008 12:02:00 AM

Barclays says it will acquire Lehman Brothers' North American investment banking and capital markets businesses for \$250 million in cash.

Lehman filed for bankruptcy protection Monday after it was unable to find financing or fresh capital to shore up its balance sheet amid the continued downturn in the credit markets.

Barclays said Tuesday it will acquire Lehman's North American banking operations, which include Lehman's fixed income and equities sales, trading and research and investment banking business. About 10,000 employees work in the divisions.

Barclays will also purchase Lehman's New York headquarters and its two data centers in New Jersey for \$1.5 billion.

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GMP Third-Quarter Profit Falls on Investment-Banking Fees

By Doug Alexander
Nov. 6 (Bloomberg)

GMP Capital Trust, Canada's second- biggest independent brokerage by assets, said third-quarter net income fell 82 percent as investment-banking fees fell.

Profit for the period ended Sept. 30 fell to C\$6.9 million (\$5.9 million), the Toronto-based firm said in a Canada NewsWire statement today.

GMP has been hurt by a global credit crisis that has eroded equity financings and mergers in Canada during the quarter. The firm last month reduced its monthly cash payout for a second time in three months, and cut 37 jobs to respond to the downturn.

GMP units fell 82 cents, or 14 percent, to C\$4.92 yesterday in Toronto Stock Exchange trading.

The firm managed three Canadian stock sales in the quarter worth \$200.1 million, an 18 percent drop from a year earlier. The company also handled six takeovers that closed in the quarter worth \$150 million, down from \$5.1 billion a year earlier, according to Bloomberg data.



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The firm managed three Canadian stock sales in the quarter worth \$265.1 million, an 18 percent drop from a year earlier. The company handled six takeovers that closed in the quarter worth \$1.59 billion, down from \$5.1 billion a year earlier, according to Bloomberg data.



...and northwest. But... fewer... plans.

PDF: An Open Letter to Airline Customers
ATA projects these tighter controls will greatly diminish oil speculation and bring oil prices back to the vicinity of \$70 and \$100 per barrel. An additional 75 airlines and transportation-based organizations, including the Association of Corporate Travel Executives and the National Business Travel Association, have also pledged their support for the effort.

But not everyone agrees. Business Travel Coalition (BTC) Chairman Kevin Mitchell says that "speculation is not a root cause of the high price of oil, but rather, it is a symptom," explaining why the BTC does not endorse ATA's effort. "Money would not be flowing into the oil futures market were it not for the expectation that oil prices are going to increase," Mitchell adds. The BTC and other groups rightly expand the conversation about how to help the airlines to include efforts to increase the strength of the U.S. dollar and adopting a national energy and transportation policy.

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...the airlines for trying to address a crucial issue, but a look... why regulating the oil futures market is unlikely to bring... and substantial relief to a desperate industry. According to the latest numbers from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), world oil consumption will grow by 33% from 2005 to 2030, fueled primarily by giant emerging economies in countries like China, India, Russia and Brazil. As these countries industrialize, they require an ever-increasing supply of fossil fuels to power thousands of new factories and businesses and satiate an emerging middle class who crave automobiles, refrigerators, air conditioners and many other energy consumptive products we've enjoyed for decades.

The U.S. is currently the largest oil consumer on the planet, accounting for approximately 25% of world oil consumption, but the four largest emerging economies boast a population 10 times greater than ours, and their energy needs are projected to grow four times faster than developed nations, according to DOE. Even if we reduce our oil consumption dramatically, increasing demand in the rest of the world will offset that reduction and continue to drive up prices.

While oil demand is on the rise, refineries are already operating close to capacity and exploration and exploitation of new oil sources have become more costly. Though oil usage and prices fluctuate by season, the increasing supply-demand disparity will continue to drive up the price of oil over the long term.

With demand increasingly outstripping supply, purchasing oil today and selling it at a higher price tomorrow is a sound investment, and speculators are riding the wave of demand-driven oil price increases rather than causing prices to rise. Furthermore, if the U.S. places restrictions on the oil futures market, some experts believe speculators will simply trade oil elsewhere beyond the reach of U.S. regulators. It is also worth noting that many "speculators" are ordinary folks who bet on rising oil prices through institutional investment funds, pensions and 401k plans.

The U.S. currently imports up to 66% of the oil we use. As such, we are competing with the Indians, the Chinese and everyone else who needs oil. This is how the price is driven upwards. If we really want to bring down the price of oil — and save our airlines — we need to reduce consumption and eliminate our foreign dependence on oil for starters. Wind, solar and nuclear power could easily provide electric power to fixed structures like homes and businesses.

...while the effects... more... to get... going for fewer carriers...
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...the effects... more... to get... going for fewer carriers...

"We're now going to the point where there are so few carriers left, and they still can't make money," he said.

Mergers, combined with a recent spate of airline bankruptcies, mean passengers in many cities can expect fewer flights to choose from, and they'll be packed even fuller than they are now.

Greater demand for remaining seats translates into higher ticket prices.

"There's no doubt in my mind fares are going to go up," said Rick Seaney, chief executive of FareCompare.com, which tracks changes in airline ticket prices. "Consumers are deluding themselves if they think that's not the case."

Peter Schiff, president of brokerage firm Euro Pacific Capital, said the changes could put air travel out of reach for Americans of modest means.

"Although many Americans have come to regard affordable air travel as a birthright, from a global perspective it remains the province of the wealthy," Schiff said.

That could mean more headaches for travelers already reeling from a string of cancellations due to stepped-up scrutiny of safety regulations by the Federal Aviation Administration.

The merger announcement by Northwest Airlines Corp. and Delta Air Lines Inc. which would create the world's largest airline, has already ignited talks among other airlines as they seek to bulk up to combat rising fuel prices in a slowing economy.

Continental Airlines Inc. executives told employees Tuesday that the airline wants to remain independent, but warned "the landscape is changing" and said it would consider its "strategic alternatives."

The executives did not say what they might consider, but Continental has held talks with United Airlines in the past.

United CEO Glenn Tilton issued his own statement to employees Tuesday in which he called industry consolidation "one of the changes necessary" for the industry to get to sustained profits.

"We will participate in consolidation when and if it is the right choice and provides the right benefits for employees, customers and shareholders," Tilton said.

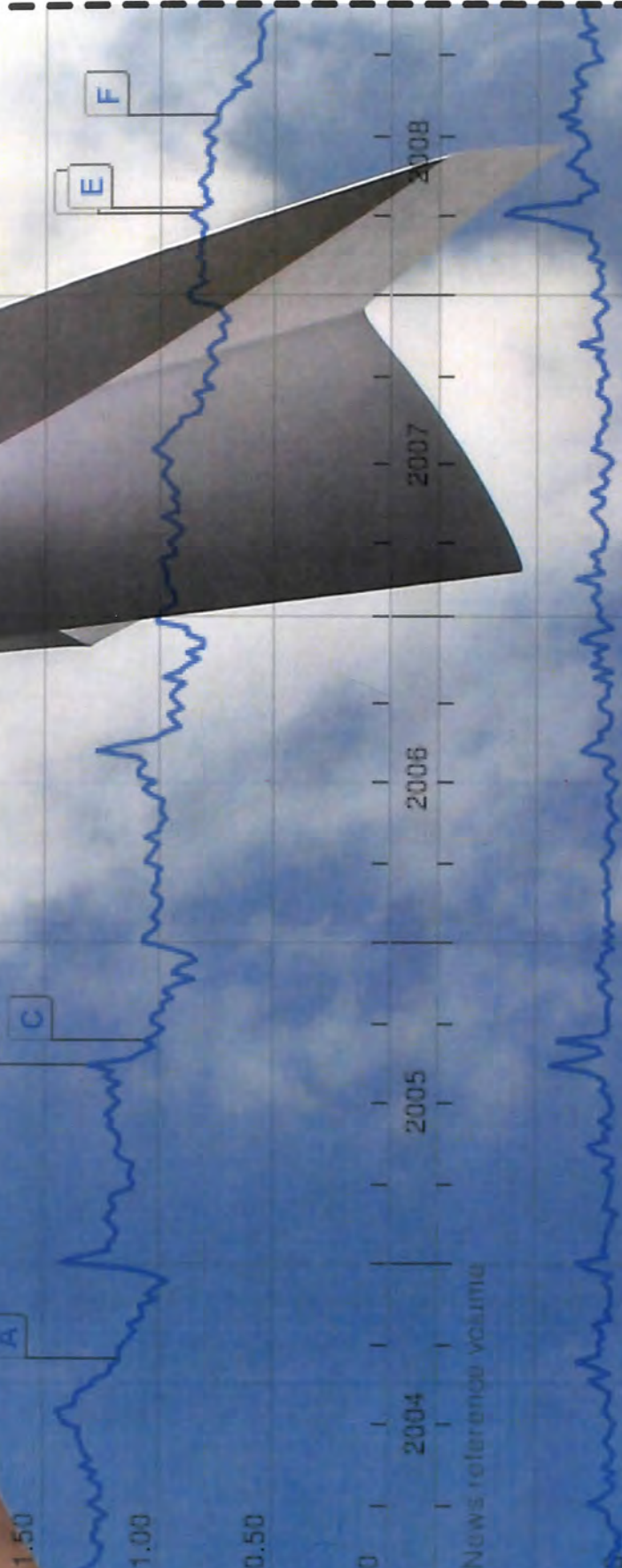
A Continental-United pairing would create an airline even bigger than the Delta-Northwest offspring, which will keep the Delta name if regulators and shareholders give their blessing.

An industry dominated by a few massive carriers would give Wall Street what it's wanted for a long time, fewer planes in the sky. That could allow airlines to cast off redundant or unprofitable routes, use less fuel and keep fares high.

But the Northwest-Delta deal could also be a rare nugget of good news for some passengers.

Google Trends

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\$538,142,342

America's 'other' auto industry

In the South, host to foreign-owned plants, there is little sympathy held for Detroit.

By Patrik Jonsson | Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor
from the December 5, 2008 edition
E-mail a friend Print this Letter to the Editor Republish ShareThis E-mail
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Reporter Patrik Jonsson talks about a modern-day Civil War, pitting automakers and workers from the northern and southern US against each other.
DETROIT, Mich. — The US auto industry is throwing bolts, but here in Georgia's South, the South Korean car company is building a massive new plant. The new Kia Parkway, replacing abandoned textile and Korean BBQ House now vies for customers with the B-Que. And in an indication of just how welcome Kia's 43,000 people applied for 2,600 positions — with an hour — as the plant gears up to turn out its first model

The expansion in this "other" auto industry — one that's foreign-owned, nonunion, and based largely in the South — stands in stark contrast to this week's dire reports from America's own Big Three, whose CEOs laid out plans for a dramatic downsizing before traveling to Washington to plead for \$34 billion in federal aid.

Two-thirds of "foreign imports" are, in fact, built in the United States in nonunion shops, where it costs at least \$2,000 less in labor to build each vehicle.

Many charge that the Japanese, Korean, and German auto companies are taking advantage of desperate communities and a longstanding distrust of unions in the South. But among people in West Point, Ga., the vision of a foreign-owned Southern car industry standing on its own two feet while Detroit teeters comes down to this: the worth of a day's work, and the role — or nonrole — of unions like the United Auto Workers (UAW).

"Workers [in the South] understand that in order for them to have a job these companies have got to make money, because if they don't, they're not going to have a job," says Rep. Lynn Westmoreland (R), who represents this river city in Congress and who could be asked as soon as next week to vote on a bailout to keep Chrysler and General Motors afloat. "That's the first issue [Detroit auto executives] need to address before they come to Congress asking for a bailout or a loan or whatever it is," he says in a phone interview.

Around the South and especially here on Interstate 85 — nicknamed the "autobahn" for the prevalence of foreign-owned car plants along its stretch — the manufacture of foreign vehicles has jumped 450 percent since 1986. While the Big Three have shed more than 600,000 jobs since 1980, foreign automakers have created about 35,000 jobs in the same period.

The gap between union and nonunion compensation is big: Total benefits put union workers at \$36.34 per hour compared with \$25.65 per hour. The Big Three's "legacy costs," some economists say, push UAW members' total compensation much higher. That gap, moreover, figures into Southern residents' views on Detroit's worthiness to be rescued from the brink of bankruptcy.

"If you're making \$60 or \$70 an hour, I can see how you don't want to work for \$20," says West Point barber Dewey Rayley, who reports that most of his customers look unfavorably on a federal bailout for the American auto companies. "But that's the thing: What makes you think it's worth so much just to build a car?"

The UAW, for its part, has tried to unionize the international plants in the South, to no avail. Its membership is down 17 percent from 2007, to 464,910 — the lowest since the Great Depression.

With the stakes rising, the once tough-minded union is now "a shadow of its former self," says Nelson Lichtenstein, director of the Center for the Study of Work, Labor and Democracy in Santa Barbara, Calif.

On Wednesday, UAW head Ron Gettelfinger said the union will discontinue a controversial jobs bank — a kind of private unemployment program — and allow the Big Three to postpone payments into a healthcare trust for workers. It's the second offer to reopen contract negotiations in three years.

Analysis: Avoiding blame in auto industry crisis
By DAVID ESPO — 1 hour ago

WASHINGTON (AP) — Not surprisingly, neither the outgoing Bush administration, President-elect Barack Obama nor the Democratic leaders of Congress wants to be blamed for the loss of a once-proud domestic auto industry and the disappearance of hundreds of thousands of jobs.
But that's not the same thing as a three-way agreement on legislation to save General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler LLC, an accord that presumably could clear the House and Senate with relative ease and be signed into law.

Instead, maneuvering in a sort of political twilight zone, two administrations and the Democratic leaders of Congress all give rhetorical support to the survival of the industry while trying to reassure recession-weary taxpayers there will be no blank check from the federal treasury.
"Nothing concentrates the mind like a death sentence," Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., said Thursday at the end of a daylong Senate Banking Committee hearing. "And we're looking at a death sentence here if we don't respond intelligently and prudently."
In the ways of Washington, there are several competing options afloat, each with its own set of supporters.

The White House likes one; Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., another. Some Republicans prefer bankruptcy — let the marketplace decide. There's also a pre-packaged bankruptcy option, drawing interest among some Democrats despite opposition from the United Autoworkers Union. Its intent is to permit all three companies to survive.

Detroit's Big Three, nominally seeking \$34 billion in aid, say they would accept a government-run restructuring.
Then there is the hope-the-Federal Reserve-steps-in option, the one that allows the politicians to avoid compromise.
As for the CEOs of the Big Three, they are now on a bizarre sort of government no-fly list, for fear that boarding their corporate jets would invite more ridicule for their role in presiding over the collapse of an entire industry. This time, they drove to the Capitol from Detroit, bearing blueprints for using bailout billions to remake their industry economically viable.
The early reaction was underwhelming.

At the White House, spokeswoman Dana Perino said it's "too early to say" whether their assessment was correct.
Obama, pointing out that there is only one president at a time, said earlier in the week that the Big Three had "a more serious set of plans" than they did the last time their chiefs testified in front of Congress.
That drew a double-barrelled barb from Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. chairman of the House Financial Services Committee.

"He's going to have to be more assertive than he's been," Frank said of the president-elect. "At a time of great crisis with mortgage foreclosures and autos, he says we only have one president at a time. I'm afraid that overstates the number of presidents we have. He's got to remedy that situation."
The leading Democrats in Congress, Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid put it this way several days ago in a letter to the Detroit carmakers. "The auto companies' shareholders, business partners and prospective benefactors — the American people — deserve to see a plan that is accountable to taxpayers and that is viable for the long-term."
The new plans in hand, Sen. Bob Bennett, R-Utah, observed: "to come up with the answer to those complicated questions (in) 72 hours, is something that Congress is frankly not equipped to do."
Whatever the financial and economic issues, the political knot is a complicated one.

The administration says federal law does not permit the use of any of the billion financial bailout fund to help the auto industry. Instead, aides say President George W. Bush would sign legislation that makes use of \$25 billion originally slotted for loans to help the carmakers retool their factories to make environmentally friendlier products.
Pelosi and Reid counter that the Treasury has clear authority to tap the bailout funds if the president chose.
Additionally, Pelosi, allied with environmentalists, opposes the use of the money the administration favors, saying it is already spoken for.
Reid agrees that the administration can and should tap the bailout money, and seems more amenable than the speaker to making use of the funds that Bush has proposed tapping.



McCain takes lead as gun-rights advocate as he confronts candidates

By Calvin Woodward
ASSOCIATED PRESS
2:12 p.m. April 18, 2007

WASHINGTON — Republican presidential candidate John McCain announced Wednesday he believes in “no gun control” in making the strongest public statement of support for gun rights in the GOP field since the Virginia Tech massacre.

The Arizona senator said in Summerville, S.C., that the country needs better ways to identify dangerous people like the gunman who killed 32 people and himself in the Blacksburg, Va., rampage. But he opposed weakening gun rights and, when asked whether ammunition clips sold to the public should be limited in size, said, “I don’t think that’s necessary at all.”

GOP rival Rudy Giuliani, too, voiced his support for the Second Amendment on Wednesday, but not in such absolute terms. Once an advocate of strong federal gun controls, the former New York mayor said “this tragedy does not alter the Second Amendment” while indicating he favors the right of states to pass their own restrictions.

Other candidates in both parties have stayed largely silent on the issue in the immediate aftermath of the killings, except to express their sorrow.

US High Court considers landmark gun-rights case

Reuters
19 March 2008

The US Supreme Court is considering a landmark legal battle over gun rights, taking up for the first time in nearly 70 years whether Americans have the right to keep and bear arms.

The court’s ruling, expected by the end of June, could have a far-reaching impact on gun control laws in the United States, estimated to have the world’s highest civilian gun ownership rate, and could become an issue in the November election.

At issue is whether to strike down or uphold one of the nation’s strictest gun control laws - a Washington, DC, ban on private possession of handguns and a requirement that any rifles or shotguns kept at home be unloaded and disassembled or bound by a trigger lock.

The case is widely viewed as one of the most important of the Supreme Court’s current term, along with cases on the rights of the Guantanamo Bay prisoners and the US lethal injection method of execution. The case could resolve the much-disputed meaning of the Second Amendment of the US Constitution and whether it protects an individual’s right to possess

Obama blasts Clinton over gun-rights support

ASSOCIATED PRESS
April 14, 2008

STEELTON, Penn. (AP) -- Democrat Barack Obama lashed out Sunday at rival Hillary Rodham Clinton, mocking her sudden vocal support for gun rights and saying that he understands the concerns of working-class people.

“She knows better. Shame on her. Shame on her,” Obama told an audience at a union hall here.

The Illinois senator has spent two days on the defensive after comments he made at a San Francisco fundraiser suggesting working-class people are bitter about their economic circumstances and “cling to guns and religion” as a result. Clinton has pounded him for the remarks, calling him “elitist and divisive.”

After reiterating his regret for his choice of words, Obama turned the tables on Clinton -- noting that she accepted campaign contributions from drug and insurance company lobbyists and mocking, among other things, her sudden fealty to the rights of gun owners.

High court affirms gun rights in historic decision

By MARK SHERMAN, Associated Press Writer
Friday, June 27, 2008

(06-27) 01:43 PDT WASHINGTON (AP) --

Shifting central questions of gun control for two centuries, the Supreme Court found its voice Thursday in a decision affirming the right to have guns for self-defense in the home and addressing a constitutional riddle almost as old as the republic. It means to say the people may keep and bear arms.

The court’s 5-4 ruling struck down the District of Columbia’s ban on handguns and imperiled similar prohibitions in other cities, like Chicago and San Francisco, among them. Federal gun restrictions, however, were expected to remain largely intact.

The court’s historic awakening on the meaning of the Second Amendment brought a curiously mixed response, muted in some unexpected places.

The reaction broke less along party lines than along the divide between cities with high urban violence and rural areas where gun owners are embedded in daily life. Even states have all but abandoned their long opposition to federal gun control at the national level after decades of a losing issue for them. Republicans

CBSNews.com Cites Gun Banner Bids in Deley, with Obama on Gun Rights

By Ken Shepherd
September 24, 2008 - 10:26 ET

Noting that the National Rifle Association has begun a “Push Is Turn” Obama on Guns,” CBSNews.com’s Brian Montopoli noted, and rightly so that Sen. John McCain has not been the strongest advocate of gun rights issues. But while Montopoli brought up McCain’s 2004 mushy “C+” grade in his September 23 article, neither Obama’s nor Biden’s “F” grades by the gun rights group were mentioned in the article.

What’s more, Montopoli cited Biden’s defense of his running mate, on gun rights issues, yet failed in the article to bring up the NRA’s disdain for the gun control-pushing Delaware senator:

Obama’s running mate Joe Biden, meanwhile, suggested recently that Republicans will use the issue to scare voters away from the Obama-Biden ticket.

“I guarantee you, Barack Obama ain’t taking my shotguns, so don’t buy that malarkey,” Biden said in Southern Virginia. “Don’t buy that malarkey. They’re going to start peddling that to you. I got two, if he tries to fool with my Beretta, he’s got a problem.”

All fired up: Gun owners rush to buy guns for fear Obama, Democrats will curb gun rights

By DENA POTTER
3:59 AM EST, November 8, 2008

MIDLOTHIAN, Va. (AP) - When 10-year-old Austin Smith heard Barack Obama had been elected president, he had one question: Does this mean I won’t get a new gun for Christmas?

That brought his mother, the camouflage-clad Rachel Smith, to Bob Moates Sports Shop on Thursday, where she was picking out that special 20-gauge shotgun — one of at least five weapons she plans to buy before Obama takes office in January.

Like Smith, gun enthusiasts nationwide are stocking up on firearms out of fears that the combination of an Obama administration and a Democrat-dominated Congress will result in tough new gun laws.

“I think they’re going to really try to crack down on guns and make it harder for people to try to purchase them,” said Smith, 32, who taught all five of her children — ages 4 to 10 — to shoot because the family relies on game for food.

Last month, as an Obama win looked increasingly inevitable, there were 62,000



Internet companies embrace human rights guidelines
Tuesday, October 28, 2008
By ANICK JESDANUN, AP Business Writer
E-MailPrint
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NEW YORK — Leading Internet companies, long criticized by human-rights groups for their business dealings in China, agreed Tuesday to new guidelines that seek to limit what data they should share with authorities worldwide and when they should do so.

The guidelines call for Google Inc., Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp. to try to reduce the scope of government requests that appear to conflict with free speech and other human rights principles. They also require participating companies to seek requests in writing, along with the names and titles of the authorizing officer.

But ultimately, the documents are less about "what happens when you get a knock on the door than what are you doing before then," said Leslie Harris, chief executive of the Center for Democracy and Technology, one of the main groups behind the guidelines.

Harris said the companies are agreeing to consider human rights issues ahead of time as they decide which countries to operate in and what services to offer. The guidelines also call for companies to train employees and develop mechanisms to resolve conflicts.

The Global Network Initiative guidelines were drawn up by the Internet companies along with human rights organizations, investors and academics.

It was not immediately clear, however, what practices, if any, will change, as the guidelines do not ban any specific conduct, and many of the key points are open to interpretation or are left to individual companies to implement.

"What's disappointing is that the amount of effort ... didn't produce something more substantial," said Morton Sklar, executive director of the World Organization for Human Rights USA, which sued Yahoo for giving Chinese officials information that led to the arrest of two journalists. The lawsuit has since been settled for an undisclosed amount.

He said the documents do not offer specific guidance on how a company's employee is supposed to respond when presented with a particular set of circumstances.

But Sklar praised the companies for recognizing "that there was a huge problem here and needed to be addressed."

About 18 months in the making, the guidelines do call for the creation of an oversight organization to regularly review the companies' practices, though what sanctions they face have yet to be decided. Other companies may join the Global Network Initiative.

The guidelines stress that free expression and human rights are ultimately principles requiring the commitment of governments, and that organization will also help companies collaborate on lobbying.

Human-rights group that participated in crafting the agreement called it an important first step.

"We have a ways to go," said Mike Posner, president of Human Rights First. "This is the framework for a broader agreement."

Michael Samway, Yahoo's deputy general counsel, said the company would be able to learn and share ideas through its collaboration with other companies and organizations, including human-rights groups.

Internet companies have felt compelled to expand into China because of its growth potential, but the push into the world's most populous country has raised thorny issues, particularly for Yahoo and Google, which were both co-founded by immigrants.

Yahoo and its Taiwan-born chief executive, Jerry Yang, have faced the biggest backlash for handing over e-mails that led to the imprisonment of two Chinese journalists. Besides Sklar's lawsuit, the outcry spurred a congressional hearing

Free Internet Access On FCC's Docket

By Jennifer Bosavage, ChannelWeb

10:10 AM EST Thu. Dec. 04, 2008 The Federal Communications Commission at a Dec. 18 meeting will debate a plan that, if approved, would result in free Internet access.

Free Internet access continues to be a hot topic as the cell phone industry vociferously opposes it, while the Republican leadership of the FCC entertains proposals in favor of it. FCC Chairman Kevin Martin is a champion of the plan, which involves auctioning off 25MHz of the little-used Advanced Wireless Services band and offering at least 25 percent for a free nationwide broadband network. Under the plan, the winning bidder would have to offer free airwaves to at least 95 percent of the U.S. population.

There are two proposals facing the FCC commissioners. One includes a provision that if the free network hasn't reached its goals within five years, its local bandwidth would be transformed into Wi-Fi-like unlicensed spectrum. The other does not. The FCC will vote on one of these versions—which the commissioners will determine themselves—at the upcoming meeting.

The cell phone providers are against the idea, largely because they have claimed the "free" spectrum interferes with their adjacent spectrum. FCC engineers have disputed that claim.

Free speech advocates are also opposed to the plan because the auction winner would be required to prohibit pornography or other objectionable materials. In addition, critics note that the free models very difficult to run profitably, particularly without the lucrative porn marketplace. However, Martin's latest proposal offers adults the option to opt out of any filtering.

One of the companies that could benefit from a ruling in favor of free Internet is M2Z Networks. The company filed an application in May 2006 to provide a competitive broadband service developed on unutilized spectrum. Among M2Z's proposals is a build-out that would provide coverage for 95 percent of the American population within 10 years. The vendor has agreed to filter indecent content and offer services to public safety organizations. The company is aiming to make money on upgrades in service. M2Z plans to pay 5 percent of its gross revenue earned from M2Z's premium and wholesale subscription services to the U.S. Treasury.

December 04, 2008

Internet Traffic Peaks for Online Retailers on Cyber Monday

By Anita B., TMCnet Contributor

Integra Telecom, a Chicago-based, integrated communications carrier, reported an increase in business Internet traffic of 30 percent compared to two weeks ago. The spike in Internet usage includes visits to e-Commerce Web sites as well as e-mail exchanges.

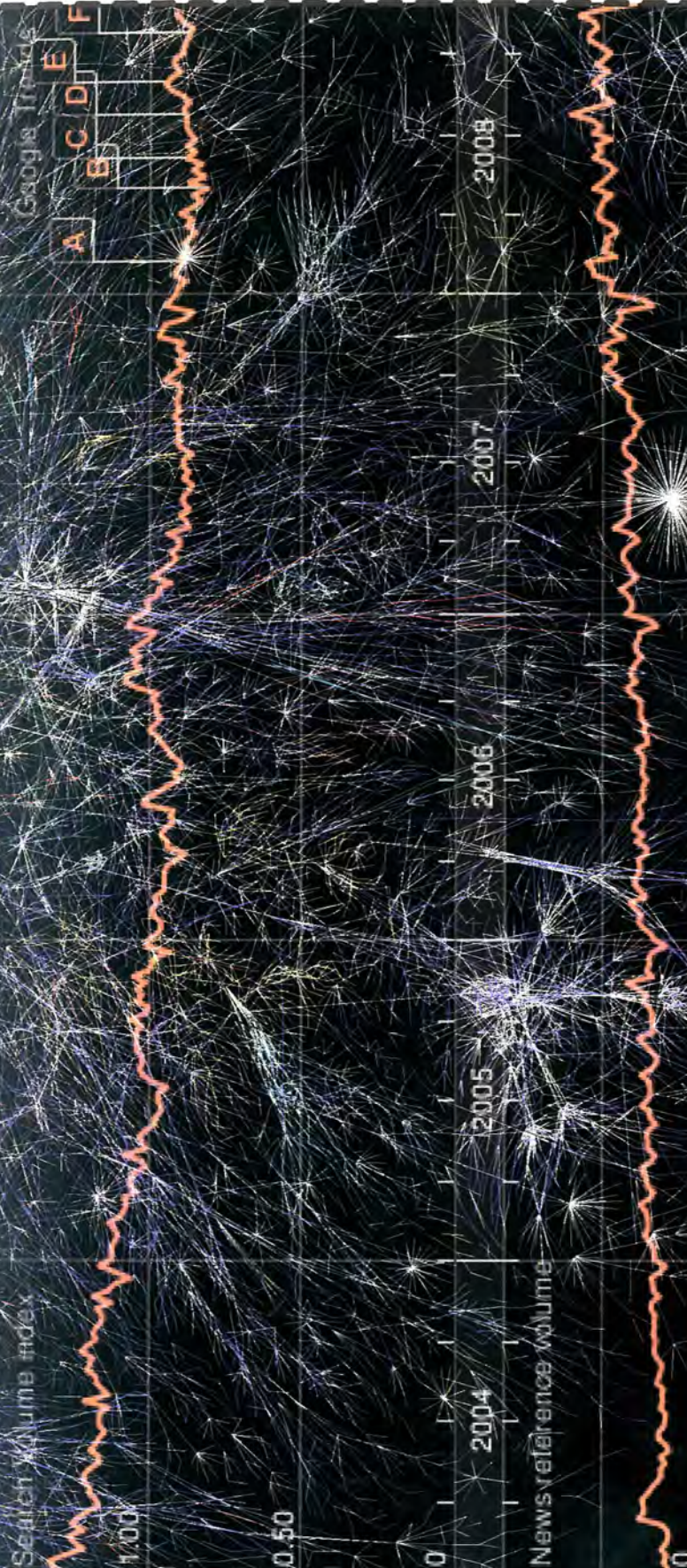
Convergence in Telecommunication Learn more, download free white paper.

According to this article, the National Retail Federation coined the term "Cyber Monday (News - Alert)" in 2005 to describe the Monday after Thanksgiving when Americans returned to work from vacation to renew their gift shopping online.

Cyber Monday is considered to be the most profitable for all Internet retailers as consumers shop online from their homes and even their cell phones. Many local businesses try and make the most of this time frame by connecting with their current customers and building new ones to sell their various products. The increase in Internet traffic equals that recorded by the company during the same timeframe surrounding Cyber Monday 2007. Integra Telecom is the largest competitive telecommunication carrier west of the Mississippi River and serves businesses in 11 states.

The Internet traffic statistics provided reflect Integra's combined network. Integra's Cyber Monday Internet usage was compared against its Internet usage recorded two Mondays prior to Cyber Monday for both 2007 and 2008. Business Wire ranked Integra Telecom No. 1,557 on its annual ranking of the 5,000 fastest-growing private companies in the country and No. 33 in the category of gross dollars of growth. Between 2004 and 2007, Integra achieved revenue growth of 2418%. The list is the most comprehensive look at the most important segment of the economy -- America's independent-minded entrepreneurs.

Cyber Monday benefited most online retailers as this report suggests, like their counterparts at the malls, online merchants finally got some relief with the



Driving while using a cell phone found to quadruple crash risk

By Michael Dresser

December 5, 2008

Using a cell phone while driving quadruples the chances of becoming involved in a crash - whether or not the motorist is using a hands-free device - according to a report released yesterday by a leading traffic safety advocacy group.

Yet two-thirds of Americans believe it is safer to talk on the phone while driving if one's hands are free, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety reported.

The AAA Foundation report is a compilation of studies that looked - among other things - at billing records of drivers who had been involved in crashes to see whether they had been talking on cell phones just before the events.

In two such studies, no statistically significant difference in risk was found between the use of hand-held cell phones and the hands-free models.

The report also cited another study showing that cell phone use delays driver reactions to critical road events by an average of 0.23 seconds - with little difference between conventional cell phones and hands-free devices.

"The best available evidence suggests that it is no less hazardous for a driver to use a hands-free phone than to use a hand-held phone," the report concludes.

According to the report, four in five Americans now own cell phones and more than half of drivers admit in surveys to using them while driving.

Several states - including California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Washington - have adopted laws banning the use of hand-held phones while driving.

The Maryland General Assembly has debated such bills in past years but has rejected them, except in the case of novice drivers.

Ragina Averella, a spokeswoman for AAA Mid-Atlantic, noted that her organization has long supported wide-ranging laws prohibiting distracted driving rather than narrowly focused measures addressing hand-held cell phones.

Portland tightens rules for cell phone antennas

by James Mayer, The Oregonian

Thursday December 04, 2008, 9:00 PM

We want our cell phones. We want them to work whenever and wherever we want to make a call. But, please, can you put that ugly antenna somewhere else?

The Portland City Council took up that dilemma Thursday as it tried to balance the needs of the industry with neighborhood livability. The council imposed stronger restrictions as it renewed contracts with five cell phone carriers to use the public right of way -- but only for six months. Commissioner Sam Adams led the charge to take a more aggressive role, suggesting that the city was "outgunned" by the cell phone companies and lacked the engineering expertise to determine what the companies said about size, location and type of equipment was true.

The city receives about \$150,000 a year in fees from the cell companies to put antennas in public rights of way, revenue that goes into the general fund. Adams wondered whether the city could negotiate larger fees and use the money to hire engineering expertise to analyze cell company assertions.

The number of cell phones now exceeds the number of land line phones in the United States by about 70 million, according to the city's cable communication and franchise office.

A byproduct of all that cell phone use is the spread of antennas to provide uninterrupted service. There are an estimated 750 antenna sites in Portland, about 500 on buildings and other structures, with the rest on 130 to 140 cell towers and 50 to 55 utility poles.

City code already requires carriers to use utility poles rather than stand-alone towers unless it's not feasible.

The new contracts take that further by providing incentives and requirements to

Family of Girl Killed Riding Bike Wants Cell Phone Law

Last Edited: Thursday, 04 Dec 2008, 10:15 PM MST

Created: Thursday, 04 Dec 2008, 10:03 PM MST

A woman in an SUV hit a 9-year-old girl while she was riding her bicycle in the bike lane in Ft. Collins.

FORT COLLINS - The family of a 9-year old girl killed when an SUV struck her says they have hope that their daughter's death can save other children in the future. Erica Forney was riding her bike near Avondale and Flagler in Fort Collins when she was hit two days before Thanksgiving. She died on the holiday.

On Thursday as prosecutors and police discussed bringing charges against Michelle Smith, who reportedly struck Erica while she was driving and talking on her cell phone, Erica's parents, Daren and Shelley Forney are urging lawmakers to support a bill banning cell phone use while driving.

The Forneys say Erica was a budding artist and a free spirit who loved animals. Shelley Forney says the night of the accident is a fog. "I saw at the end of the street all the fire trucks and everything," she said.

Shelley Forney says she drove up her block and into a nightmare.

She quickly discovered that her daughter, who had been biking home from school, had been struck and a neighbor who was talking on the cell phone while driving was responsible.

"I saw my daughter laying on the gurney and the woman was there and immediately told me that she didn't see her, that she was distracted and drifted into the lane and how terribly sorry she was."

Shelley and her husband Daren say they are not angry with Michelle Smith. Smith may face charges for the accident, yet they do not blame her.

"What happened to Erica was a horrible, terrible accident," said Shelley Forney. "You just never ever in your life think it's gonna be you or your family."

"In some ways I think it does require a really heartbreaking incident like this before we realize what the risks are," said State Representative Randy Fischer.

Fischer has been bombarded with emails and phone calls urging new legislation banning people from talking on using cell phones while driving.

Fischer says one Boulder legislator already plans to propose a bill during the 2009 session that would at the very least, require drivers using cell phone to use handsets.

The Forneys say until that happens, they have one request for drivers. "If I could ask people to make a change I would say make a promise for our daughter, an Erica promise that you won't talk on your phone," said Shelley Forney.

"How important is that call that you need to do it while you're driving?" Rep. Randy Fischer says a Boulder legislator already has plans to propose a ban on cell phones while driving in the 2009 session.

There is a fund set up for Erica Forney at Resthaven Funeral Home.

Possible Cell Phone Ban

COLUMBIA - A ban on talking on your handheld cell phone may soon be a reality.

In Columbia, some people said they could see why such a common act could be made illegal.

One woman says she never talks on her cell phone while driving.

"Well, because it distracts people from their driving. And uh, it makes them drive faster than the normally do," Columbia resident Elaine Allen said.

The Missouri State Highway Patrol said cell phones were responsible for more than 1,700 crashes in Missouri in 2007. Those crashes led to 516 injuries and 12 deaths.

One woman said she talks on her cell phone when in the car because it keeps

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News reference volume

\$428,718,594

itch Teleconf: N... & Diversified Industrials Outlook,
Tues... 11am

Last update: 2:31 p.m. EST Dec. 3, 2008
NEW YORK, Dec 03, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- Fitch Ratings will host a teleconference on Tuesday, December 9 at 11:00a.m. EST to discuss its Outlooks for the North American aerospace/defense and diversified industrials sectors. The call will coincide with the release of Fitch's Outlooks for these industries which will be available on Fitch's web site at www.fitchratings.com the morning of December 9.

Craig Fraser, Managing Director, and Eric A. ... Director at Fitch will lead the teleconference to cover key credit and industry trends in the aerospace/defense and diversified industries sectors for 2009. Topics will also include end-market forecasts, financial trends, and aircraft finance. A Q&A session will follow prepared remarks, in which Christopher Wolfe, Managing Director of the Financial Institutions group, and Tom Chruszcz, Director from the European industrials team, will also be available.

Participants should call +1-866-723-3590 (Domestic) or +1 706-634-1958 (International) five minutes prior to the 11:00am EST start time and give the title of the call 'Aerospace and Industrials Outlook', or the call leader name 'Craig Fraser.'

A replay of the teleconference will be available starting two hours after the teleconference is completed and will be available until January 9 close of business. To listen to the teleconference replay, participants should call +1-800-642-1687 (Domestic) or +1 706-645-9291 (International). The conference ID number for the replay is '76413210.'

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Aerospace and Defense Manufacturers Launch Outreach Campaign

Last update: 9:39 a.m. EST Dec. 2, 2008
ARLINGTON, Va., Dec 02, 2008 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- ARLINGTON, Va., Dec. 2 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The Aerospace Industries Association is launching an outreach campaign to underscore the value of the aerospace and defense industry to our nation's economic health.

The initiative, aimed at the incoming administration and Congress, will encourage leaders to consider the industry as an economic driver that will help our nation overcome our current financial challenges.

"The aerospace and defense industry supports more than two million middle class jobs with over 30,000 suppliers from all fifty states," said AIA President and CEO Marion Blakey. "We want the new leaders in Washington to be completely aware of the value of this industry to the economy."

"The nation is facing a tough economic situation," continued Blakey. "We are urging the new administration and Congress to support the programs and the people that can get America's economy moving again."

The aerospace industry exported \$97 billion in 2007 and posted a \$61 billion surplus, the largest of any manufacturing sector. The civil, national security and space sectors of the industry provide many vital functions from ensuring a strong national security, modernizing America's aviation infrastructure, to maintaining leadership in space and creating advanced technology innovation that enhances the life of every American.

Advertisements with the campaign theme, "Aerospace and Defense: The Strength to Lift America," will run primarily in inside the beltway publications starting with a full-page advertisement in The Washington Post Dec. 2, 2008. AIA member companies contributing to the initiative include BAE Systems, The Boeing Company, General Dynamics Corporation, ITT Corporation, L-3 Communications Corporation, Lockheed Martin Corporation, Northrop Grumman Corporation, General Electric, Raytheon Company, Rolls-Royce North America, SAIC, Textron Inc. and United Technologies Corporation. More information and a white paper on the aerospace and defense industry's contribution to our nation's economic health are available at www.aia-aerospace.org.

SOURCE Aerospace Industries Association

8th Continent Incubator Enlists First Aerospace Business Tenant
Australian Startup Joins Colorado's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Last update: 10:37 a.m. EST Dec. 4, 2008

GOLDEN, Colo., Dec 04, 2008 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- flaik, an Australian startup company whose satellite-based social location technology helps skiers track their vertical performance and resorts track ski school students, is the first tenant to join the 8th Continent Aerospace Business Incubator. "The 8th Continent Incubator's mission is to support 'Space' and actual operating companies that commercialize existing Space and defense industry technologies," said 8th Continent Director Burke Fong. With the first real-time, GPS-enabled tracking solution for the ski industry, flaik has already landed contracts with the Steamboat and Copper Mountain ski schools. The company is well on its way to filling a market need using the constellation of GPS satellites originally deployed by the Department of Defense."

With primary funding from the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC) and Colorado School of Mines, the 8th Continent Aerospace Business Incubator is being managed by the Boulder Innovation Center (BIC). "flaik was founded by aerospace engineers in Australia," said BIC Director Tim Bour.

"They've come here to establish customer, partner and employee relationships within Colorado's technology, workforce, venture capital and ski industry communities that fit for the services BIC brings to the table."

The BIC will facilitate connections with mentors, coaches and service providers to address the company's immediate needs including legal, accounting, recruiting and messaging to prepare CEO Steve Kenny and his team to raise growth capital. "We're looking forward to becoming part of Colorado's incredible entrepreneurial ecosystem," said Kenny. "We're very fortunate to find such synergies and resources, right here in the middle of Ski Country."

"The BIC is hiring a program manager to quarterback flaik's entry into the North American location-based services industry, help the company's Australian investors syndicate within the Colorado angel capital market, and begin building the BIC's space commercialization capabilities," said Bour.

The 8th Continent Aerospace Business Incubator is supported by a \$150,000 EDC grant matched by the Colorado School of Mines, the law firm Townsend and Townsend and Crew, and Metzger Associates Public Relations for a total of \$372,000 in cash and in-kind services over three years. Incubator management and advisory services will be sourced through the Boulder Innovation Center and include access to BIC's and 8th Continent Funding Network partners Rocky Mountain Venture Capital Association, the Keiretsu Forum, Rockies Venture Club, TechStars and the Governor's Office of Economic Development and International Trade.

About the 8th Continent Project

Based in Golden, the Colorado School of Mines' 8th Continent Project is the world's most comprehensive effort to integrate space technology and resources into the global economy. 8th Continent provides the infrastructure and resources to solve a wide range of challenges from global warming to renewable energy development. Located in the home of the most concentrated entrepreneurial, investor and aerospace talent in the world, 8th Continent brings space down to earth with the industry's first trade association, incubator, funding network and research hub, all working together to develop the next generation of space business ventures. More information can be found at www.8cproject.com.

About the Boulder Innovation Center

The Boulder Innovation Center brings together entrepreneurs with the resources of its sponsors and its management advisory team to create a climate of success for new businesses. The BIC matches each client with the appropriate resources including personalized consulting engagements, financial modeling, financing strategies, business plan development and business process refinement. For more information on the BIC, please visit www.boulderinnovationcenter.com or contact Tim Bour at 303-444-2111.

About the Colorado Economic Development Commission

The Colorado EDC was created by the state legislature to promote economic development in Colorado. The EDC approves loans and grants from the economic development fund to public and private entities throughout the state to help existing businesses expand and new companies locate to Colorado. For further information, please contact Shela Tatro or Alice Kotrlík at 303-892-3840.

SOURCE: 8th Continent Project

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